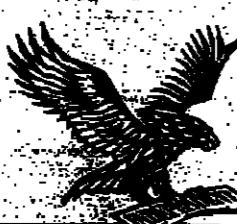


In fast lane  
All sorts of new  
and exciting  
things are  
happening  
in the  
new world.  
Be charged.



# THE INDEPENDENT

No. 3,227

SATURDAY 22 FEBRUARY 1997

WEATHER: Sun and showers

(IR65p) 60p

The new  
British fashion  
photography  
the  
magazine



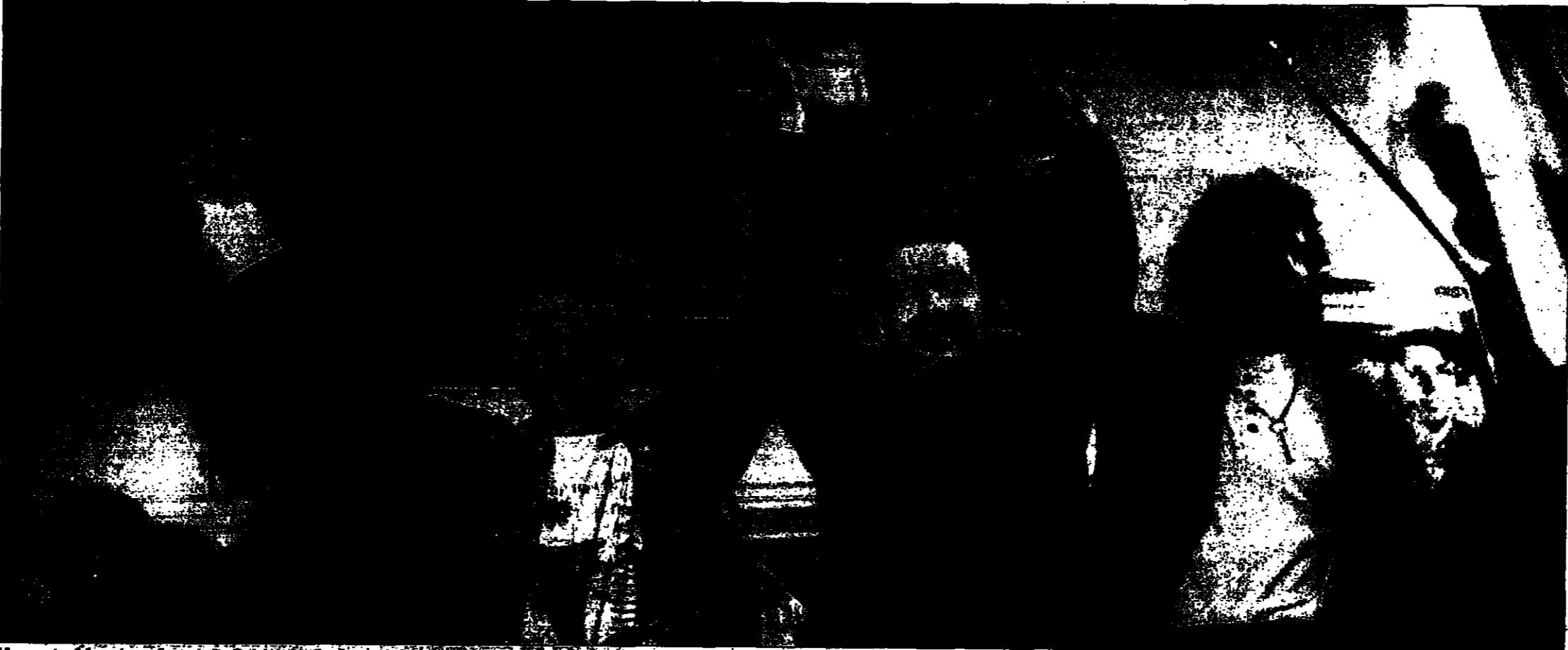
John Malkovitch:  
the hottest mouth  
in the West  
the  
long weekend



Win a  
Nintendo  
64 in...  
The eye

Rangers riva  
nited for Sta

## The inspired hunch that ended 18 years of injustice



Moment of freedom: from left, Patricia Wynn Davies, Legal Affairs Editor; Michael Hickey; Michael Hickey and Michael Hickey after the latter were released

Photograph: David Rose

**Patricia Wynn Davies**  
Legal Affairs Editor

The Bridgewater Three might have been released from jail seven years earlier had "crucial proof of forged confessions not lain undetected in Home Office files. As the men walked to freedom from the Royal Courts of Justice in London, it was revealed that a lawyer's hunch led to the damning evidence of police forgery being uncovered.

Forensic tests completed on 7 February showed that the fourth convicted man, Patrick Molloy, was provoked into making an untrue confession by being shown another confession apparently made by one of the other suspects, but in fact concocted by two police officers.

That evidence might itself never have been uncovered but for the inspired instinct of Jim Nichol, the men's solicitor, to seek a handwriting test seven years after an earlier one had proved inconclusive.

Asked what prompted him, he replied: "Gut instinct. When your back's against the wall, you try anything."

Mr Nichol, a partner in a small two-partner criminal practice in north London, had worked without legal aid funding on the case for years, before it was referred back to the Appeal Court last July.

The forged confession evidence alone - obtained through electro-static definition analysis (Esda) - was enough to convince the Crown not to con-

test the three men's appeal. Jeremy Roberts QC, told Lord Justice Roch and Mr Justice Hiddleston and Mitchell that the trial had been "fundamentally flawed", making all four convictions unsafe. Mr Molloy's confession formed the cornerstone of the convictions in 1979 for the murder of the 13-year-old newspaper boy Carl Bridgewater. The Esda test - which

shows no indentations of writing from sheets on top of a document - revealed that the Hickey statement had been written on paper resting immediately on top of Mr Molloy's confession, at a time when Mr Hickey was being dealt with separately at another police station.

The crucial indentations had always been there, but were never identified during a 1990 Esda

test, which had been commissioned to investigate whether the Molloy confession itself had been tampered with.

In yet another remarkable feature of the affair, even that second test could have proved worthless were it not for a label that had been attached to the Molloy confession - the crucial exhibit 43 - which had protected the key indentations in

the paper from wear and tear.

The appeal judges granted unconditional bail to Michael Hickey, 34, his cousin Vincent Hickey, 42, and James Robinson, 62, pending a hearing of evidence from scientific experts who had examined Mr Molloy's confession and an examination of other grounds of appeal.

Lord Justice Roch said if the evidence was accepted, and he

could see no reason why it should not be, it would "inevitably lead to the quashing of Mr Molloy's conviction".

Michael Mansfield QC, for Mr Molloy, who died in prison in 1981, told the court that the Esda test showed that the fabricated Vincent Hickey confession, the trigger which led Mr Molloy into making a false confession, had almost certainly been written by the West Midlands Regional Crime Squad's Detective Constable Graham Leekie, now a partner in a security company. Mr Hickey's signature had been forged by the late Detective Constable John Perkins. A third officer, Detective Sergeant John Robbins, who has also left the West Midlands force, stood outside the door of the interview room.

Merseyside police is currently conducting an investigation into the case. But John Major said yesterday: "I am sure there would be an inquiry into the original convictions, very possibly an inquiry within the police force."

There was uproar and jubilation as the three men emerged onto the steps of the Royal Courts of Justice after the two-hour hearing. The three men combined celebration with a scathing attack on the system that had left them in jail for more than 18 years. Later, Mr Robinson insisted that the West Midlands police had not been overzealous in trying to get a conviction for the murder.

"It was a concerted conspir-

acy from day one. You are trying to tell me that high-ranking policemen don't know when they have got the wrong man?"

Michael Hickey, who

protested his innocence from

the rooftop of Garret Prison

in an 89-day protest during the winter of 1983, said the men wanted Carl's parents sitting with them when the full appeal

hearing takes place in April.

They may be free,

but so is the killer, page 4

## 'Nothing can compensate you for all those years locked up'

**Clare Garrow**

For a brief moment yesterday the Bridgewater Three again became four. The son of Patrick Molloy, who died in prison in 1981, stepped forward to take the place of his vindicated father.

"No, just the three," shouted an aggressive photographer at a hearing press conference at St Pancras station, yards from the High Court in London. "There's four of us," Vincent Hickey replied, pulling Nick back into the fold.

Fifteen minutes earlier, James Robinson, Michael Hickey and his cousin Vincent had stepped into the sunshine for the first time in almost 19 years. And as they faced the bank of supporters, reporters and photographers, they were following in a tradition. Just like the Guildford Four and the Birmingham Six before them, they had gone from being category A prisoners one minute to freed men the next.

It had all been so sudden. Michael's mother, Ann Whelan had to send someone to buy socks for her son. "He turned up without any socks. That's how quick it is."

Besides the black cabs and double-decker buses, the world must have been almost unrecognisable to the three men. As a taxi cab driver put it: "They've almost been inside."

Each man spoke of his first glimpse of freedom. Michael saw "light bulb flashing". Vincent remembered paying the taxi driver - out of his £46 discharge money. James first noticed "the little passage way towards the pub ... a tablecloth on the table, opening doors for oneself."

A spread of famous faces who had taken the injustice to heart mingled with family and friends. Actor Roger Lloyd Pack said he had come "to see the judges eat their words." One man: "just wanted to see what they looked like - in their eyes." Paul Foot, the journalist, whose book inspired cam-

paigners, clutched a slim red notebook to record the final chapter of the story.

The gallery did its best to disrupt the protocol, clapping and shouting. John McGranaghan, who was cleared on appeal of two rapes after 11 years behind bars, yelled out his own name to James who he had known in prison.

The judge issued a warning. "This is a court of justice trying to do justice. You are asked to behave with dignity and restraint."

"Dignity?" muttered Mr McGranaghan.

"There's people who have been inside 18 years and they're talking about dignity. How can I respect a court like this? What do they know about dignity?"

Later, at the press conference, asked whether he was bitter, Michael Hickey replied: "We are not at all bitter." His cousin added: "I think a bitter person might well forget it - forget the rest of their life." He went on: "Nothing compensates for 18 years locked up."

It was a concerted conspir-

acy from day one. You are trying to tell me that high-ranking policemen don't know when they have got the wrong man?"

Michael Hickey, who

protested his innocence from

the rooftop of Garret Prison

in an 89-day protest during the winter of 1983, said the men wanted Carl's parents sitting with them when the full appeal

hearing takes place in April.

They may be free,

but so is the killer, page 4

## Singapore courts blow away passion

**Stephen Ward**

In a never-ending search for things to ban, Singapore has, perhaps inevitably, turned its attention to sex - specifically oral sex.

A High Court decision, reported yesterday, has ruled that oral sex is an "unnatural act" and therefore a criminal offence, unless it leads to intercourse.

Like the chewing of gum, smoking in public places and the failure to flush toilets, oral sex for purposes other than foreplay, is outlawed.

The court's fine eye for detail was seen in the judgment which concluded that natural intercourse had to involve "the coitus of the male and female organs".

Less specific, however, was the court's view that "unnatural acts" were permissible as long as they were part of foreplay. The justices declined to spell out what these unnatural acts might be.

The judgment also followed the well-established Singaporean practice of deciding that the state was a better judge of personal behaviour than the law.

Individuals involved. Thus even if oral sex occurs between two consenting partners, it is still unlawful.

The case giving rise to this landmark judgment involved a 47-year-old man accused of persuading a 19-year-old woman to perform oral sex on him.

The court heard that he had told the woman that she could only purge herself of poison contracted by having oral sex performed on her by another man by performing oral sex on the accused.

The complexity of the case

meant that it had to be referred from the appeal court to the High Court.

The ruling that oral sex, which is not foreplay, has been outlawed, sets a challenge for the makers of Singapore's most famous T-shirt which says "Singapore is a Fine Society". It then lists in graphic form, the various things subjected to fines in the island state.

Each of the banned items is illustrated by a fine drawing with a bar across it. It remains to be seen which symbol might be employed to describe the oral sex ban.

Gardening ..... 17  
Motoring ..... 20  
Property ..... 21  
Shopping ..... 18  
TV & Radio ..... 32  
Weather ..... 31

LONG WEEKEND

Arts ..... 4,5  
Books ..... 6,8  
Country ..... 2  
Crossword ..... 2  
Gardening ..... 17  
Motoring ..... 20  
Property ..... 21  
Shopping ..... 18,19  
TV & Radio ..... 32  
Weather ..... 31

Leading Articles ..... 17  
Letters ..... 17  
Obituaries ..... 16  
Short Story ..... 18  
Shares ..... 22  
Sport ..... 24-30

Books ..... 6,8  
Country ..... 2  
Crossword ..... 2  
Gardening ..... 17  
Motoring ..... 20  
Property ..... 21  
Shopping ..... 18,19  
TV & Radio ..... 32  
Weather ..... 31

Books ..... 6,8  
Country ..... 2  
Crossword ..... 2  
Gardening ..... 17  
Motoring ..... 20  
Property ..... 21  
Shopping ..... 18,19  
TV & Radio ..... 32  
Weather ..... 31

Books ..... 6,8  
Country ..... 2  
Crossword ..... 2  
Gardening ..... 17  
Motoring ..... 20  
Property ..... 21  
Shopping ..... 18,19  
TV & Radio ..... 32  
Weather ..... 31

Books ..... 6,8  
Country ..... 2  
Crossword ..... 2  
Gardening ..... 17  
Motoring ..... 20  
Property ..... 21  
Shopping ..... 18,19  
TV & Radio ..... 32  
Weather ..... 31

Books ..... 6,8  
Country ..... 2  
Crossword ..... 2  
Gardening ..... 17  
Motoring ..... 20  
Property ..... 21  
Shopping ..... 18,19  
TV & Radio ..... 32  
Weather ..... 31

Books ..... 6,8  
Country ..... 2  
Crossword ..... 2  
Gardening ..... 17  
Motoring ..... 20  
Property ..... 21  
Shopping ..... 18,19  
TV & Radio ..... 32  
Weather ..... 31

Books ..... 6,8  
Country ..... 2  
Crossword ..... 2  
Gardening ..... 17  
Motoring ..... 20  
Property ..... 21  
Shopping ..... 18,19  
TV & Radio ..... 32  
Weather ..... 31

Books ..... 6,8  
Country ..... 2  
Crossword ..... 2  
Gardening ..... 17  
Motoring ..... 20  
Property ..... 21  
Shopping ..... 18,19  
TV & Radio ..... 32  
Weather ..... 31

Books ..... 6,8  
Country ..... 2  
Crossword ..... 2  
Gardening ..... 17  
Motoring ..... 20  
Property ..... 21  
Shopping ..... 18,19  
TV & Radio ..... 32  
Weather ..... 31

Books ..... 6,8  
Country ..... 2  
Crossword ..... 2  
Gardening ..... 17  
Motoring ..... 20  
Property ..... 21  
Shopping ..... 18,19  
TV & Radio ..... 32  
Weather ..... 31

Books ..... 6,8  
Country ..... 2  
Crossword ..... 2  
Gardening ..... 17  
Motoring ..... 20  
Property ..... 21  
Shopping ..... 18,19  
TV & Radio ..... 32  
Weather ..... 31

Books ..... 6,8  
Country ..... 2  
Crossword ..... 2  
Gardening ..... 17  
Motoring ..... 20  
Property ..... 21  
Shopping ..... 18,19  
TV & Radio ..... 32  
Weather ..... 31

Books ..... 6,8  
Country ..... 2  
Crossword ..... 2  
Gardening ..... 17  
Motoring ..... 20  
Property ..... 21  
Shopping ..... 18,19  
TV & Radio ..... 32  
Weather ..... 31

Books ..... 6,8  
Country ..... 2  
Crossword ..... 2  
Gardening ..... 17  
Motoring ..... 20  
Property ..... 21  
Shopping ..... 18,19  
TV & Radio ..... 32  
Weather ..... 31

Books ..... 6,8  
Country ..... 2  
Crossword ..... 2  
Gardening ..... 17  
Motoring ..... 20  
Property ..... 21  
Shopping ..... 18,19  
TV & Radio ..... 32  
Weather ..... 31

Books ..... 6,8  
Country ..... 2  
Crossword ..... 2  
Gardening ..... 17  
Motoring ..... 20  
Property ..... 21  
Shopping ..... 18,19  
TV & Radio ..... 32  
Weather ..... 31

Books ..... 6,8  
Country ..... 2  
Crossword ..... 2  
Gardening ..... 17  
Motoring ..... 20  
Property ..... 21  
Shopping ..... 18,19  
TV & Radio ..... 32  
Weather ..... 31

Books ..... 6,8  
Country ..... 2  
Crossword ..... 2  
Gardening ..... 17  
Motoring ..... 20  
Property ..... 21  
Shopping ..... 18,19  
TV & Radio ..... 32  
Weather ..... 31

Books ..... 6,8  
Country ..... 2  
Crossword ..... 2  
Gardening ..... 17  
Motoring ..... 20  
Property ..... 21  
Shopping ..... 18,19  
TV & Radio ..... 32  
Weather ..... 31

Books ..... 6,8  
Country ..... 2  
Crossword ..... 2  
Gardening ..... 17  
Motoring ..... 20  
Property ..... 21  
Shopping ..... 18,19  
TV & Radio ..... 32  
Weather ..... 31

Books ..... 6,8  
Country ..... 2  
Crossword ..... 2  
Gardening ..... 17  
Motoring ..... 20  
Property ..... 21  
Shopping ..... 18,19  
TV & Radio ..... 32  
Weather ..... 31

Books ..... 6,8  
Country ..... 2  
Crossword ..... 2  
Gardening ..... 17  
Motoring ..... 20  
Property ..... 21  
Shopping ..... 18,19  
TV & Radio ..... 32  
Weather ..... 31

Books ..... 6,8  
Country ..... 2  
Crossword ..... 2  
Gardening ..... 17  
Motoring ..... 20  
Property ..... 21  
Shopping ..... 18,19  
TV & Radio ..... 32  
Weather ..... 31

Books ..... 6,8  
Country ..... 2  
Crossword ..... 2  
Gardening ..... 17  
Motoring ..... 20  
Property ..... 21  
Shopping ..... 18,1

# news

## significant shorts

### Scotland hit by new food poisoning outbreak

Medical and environmental health experts investigating the cause of Scotland's latest outbreak of *E.coli* 0157 were due to meet today to try to pinpoint the source of the illness.

Five people in the Borders area have been confirmed as having the bacteria, although only one is in hospital. The woman, Sheena Porteous, from Hawick, who is in her early 60s, is said to be in a "satisfactory" condition in Edinburgh Royal Infirmary. Two of the five cases appear to be unrelated but the other three, including Mrs Porteous, had attended a Burns Supper in the village of Roberton on 7 February. The two further victims are members of the same family from the Kelso area. Borders Health Board said around 100 people who attended the gathering had now come forward to be tested for the bacteria. A spokesman added that compared to the outbreak in central Scotland, which claimed the lives of 18 pensioners and a recent outbreak in Arbroath, Tayside, which claimed two lives, the latest situation was "relatively minor".

### Vicar accused of sex assaults

A vicar charged with indecently assaulting two young boys was remanded in police custody yesterday. David McIntosh, 51, of Fenwick Lane, Halton Lodge, Runcorn, Cheshire, appeared before magistrates in Birkenhead, Merseyside. He is accused of indecently assaulting the boys in Swindon, Wiltshire, in August 1988 and August 1989. There was no application for bail.

### Crewman killed in ship blaze

Fire experts are investigating a blaze which killed a crew member and injured four others on a ship moored in docks.

Fifty firefighters tackled the fire at Newport, South Wales on board the *Innifree*, carrying a cargo of manganese ore. Three crew were rescued from below decks and taken to hospital with the ship's captain. Firemen wearing breathing apparatus brought out a fifth man but he was dead on arrival at hospital. Two of the men are now in intensive care. A fire service spokesman said it was thought that the fire began when a chip pan caught light.

### Bail for man in Billie-Jo murder case

A 36-year-old man arrested in connection with the murder of schoolgirl Billie-Jo Jenkins was released on police bail yesterday. The man, who was arrested at his home in Hastings in the early hours of Thursday morning and spent the day being questioned by detectives, has been bailed to return to the town's police station next month. Billie-Jo, 13, (pictured) was bludgeoned to death with a metal tent spike as she painted the patio doors of her family home in Hastings, last Saturday.

### Howarth seeks seat in Wales

Alan Howarth, the MP for Stratford-upon-Avon who crossed the floor to join Labour in 1995 is bidding to become MP for Newport East. Mr Howarth confirmed: "I will ask the constituency party if they will consider me. It is of course a decision for them. There's no question of me being imposed on the constituency." The seat was vacated last week by Roy Hughes who had a majority of 9,899 at the 1992 election. Mr Howarth can expect stiff opposition, and the expected contenders are Bryan Davies, a frontbencher whose Oldham Central and Royton seat is set to disappear under boundary changes; Mike Smith, secretary of the Fire Brigades Union in Wales; and Reg Kelly, an official of the Communication Workers Union.

Tony Heath

### Boy stabbed in school attack

A 15-year-old boy was recovering in hospital last night after being stabbed in the arm at his school.

The boy, who has not been named by police, was attacked at Heathfield County High School in Congleton, Cheshire, at 11am yesterday. Police said he was taken to hospital where his condition was described as "stable". Inspector Rick Hollinshead said a 14-year-old boy had been arrested and was to be interviewed about the incident. He added that it was the first incident of its kind in the county. Matthew Brace

### BT embarrassed over adverts

British Telecom has been ordered to reconnect the telephone lines of prostitutes who advertise their numbers by placing calling cards in phone kiosks.

In an attempt to stop the proliferation of advertisements for sexual services, BT joined forces with Westminster City Council and other telephone providers last August to block incoming calls to numbers listed on the cards. But the Office of Fair Trading ruled yesterday that the agreement between the telephone providers breached competition laws because it had not been registered in advance. A BT spokesman described the ruling as a "blip" and said the company was now re-registering the move with the OFT and would start its policy of disconnection again soon.

### Man dies in factory blast

One person died and another was injured yesterday in an explosion at an east Yorkshire factory. The blast in an outbuilding at the Hygenia kitchen factory in Howden left two people buried in the rubble. Firefighters used thermal imaging cameras to find both people, believed to be factory employees.

### Rapist jailed for 14 years

A 28-year-old machinist who subjected an 82-year-old widow to a "wicked" rape attack at her home in Weston-super-Mare was jailed for 14 years yesterday. Philip Smith, of Worle, Avon, stood impotently as the Recorder of Bristol, Judge Mark Dyer, described him as a "danger to the public", but when sentence was passed he swore at the police officer who led the inquiry and threw a cup of water over him. The sounds of scuffling could be heard as he was taken away.

## people



Graham Guerin and his son Cathal, seven, after he accepted his mother's posthumous award as journalist of the year at the What The Papers Say awards in London yesterday (Photograph: PA)

## Tears and relief as Briton is released from Nigerian jail

**B**ruce Henderson, the Briton held for seven weeks without charge in Nigeria, has been released and will soon be reunited with his young family.

Mr Henderson, 42, was detained in the Bakassi peninsula, a sensitive border region on the Cameroonian border, some time between 23 December and 6 January.

British consular officials were denied access to the financial controller, who has more than 10 years' experience of working in Africa.

Hopes rose last week that he would be freed – only to be dashed as the Nigerian authorities continued to keep Mr Henderson, of Chapel of Garroch, Aberdeenshire, in prison.

But yesterday the Foreign Office announced he had been released and appeared to be in good health.

"We are very pleased to report that Bruce Henderson has been released and is now at the High Commission in Lagos," a spokesman said.

"He seems to be in good health although we will be undergoing tests."

The spokesman added that British diplomats would continue to press their Nigerian counterparts on why Mr Henderson had been denied access to consul officials.

That was an improvement on the initial diplomatic exchanges on the affair. Nigerian representatives in London had denied all knowledge of Mr Henderson but then

said that if he was in fact in Bakassi he was "either a mercenary, a spy, or without sense".

The affair placed considerable strain on relations with the West African state, which was suspended from the Commonwealth in 1995 following the execution of activist Ken Saro-Wiwa and eight others.

From her home in Chapel of Garroch, near Inverurie, Aberdeenshire, Mr Henderson's wife, Carol, said: "I can't believe it, it has come from nowhere, after all the disappointment of last week, it's wonderful."

"I spoke to him about five minutes ago, he says he is well, he is very confused, but is looking forward to coming home."

"He is totally unaware that he has been on the television and in all the papers."

Mrs Henderson described how she had gone to the local school to tell her two younger children Craig, 10, and seven-year-old Lindsay.

"They were delighted – my little girl just said 'Yessss', but Craig was a little more emotional and tears came into his eyes," she said.

Her husband was with the British High Commission in Lagos yesterday where he is currently being "debriefed", she said.

Mrs Henderson is unsure when her husband – who was working on a rainforest project in the Kounou national park in Cameroon – will return.

### Albright spells out the benefits of new technology

Take heart, all those writers who suffer from treacherous typing fingers and all those editors who can never seem to get rid of "typos". There is someone out there who is probably worse than you: none other than the US Secretary of State, or rather, "secretary to state".

Ms Albright, who once considered a career in journalism, revealed her dependency on the spell-checker when she ventured on to the Internet during her two-day visit to Moscow.

After dining with the Russian Foreign Minister, Yevgeny Primakov, she sat down at a computer terminal for an interactive chat which linked her up with some 3,000 schools in 47 countries in a discussion about her trip and US foreign policy.

True, she was surrounded by television cameras, and was bombarded by more than 100 questions, ranging from her China policy to a demand for her views on female circumcision.



Albright: Reverting to typos

But the results make Dan Quayle – who once famously forced a schoolboy to spell potato with an "e" on the end – look like the author of the Oxford English Dictionary. Here, if only to cheer up those of us who live with the headache of the "typo", are a few extracts:

■ "I am very optimistic about the school system because we are spending much more time working for our best standards. President Clinton has decided that making our school system work better is the most important agenda items so that all of you can be ready for the twenty-first century, sorry about y' tios."

■ "I never dreamed that I could be secretary to state ... we never thought that we could be in a position to make decision for our country."

■ "Our relationship with Russia is one of the most important in the world and therefore we like to have many meetings where we can exchange ideas. I will be coming to Helsinki with the President. I have never been to Helsinki and I am looking forward to it. tonight I ate caviar and sturgeon, with Russian blini. A wonderful but rat-tenting dinner."

We can only assume that "rat-tenting" is a comment about the huge amount of calories in Russian food. Quite understandably, given her heavy diplomatic duties, Ms Albright does not want to become a rat person.

Phil Reeves

### Elizabeth Taylor takes a rest after tumour surgery

Doctors expect Elizabeth Taylor to fully recover after an operation that removed a 2-inch tumour from her brain.

Miss Taylor was said to be resting comfortably at a Los Angeles hospital and could be released by next Thursday, her 65th birthday.

Dr Martin Cooper said the surgery at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center appeared to be successful and without complications.

"The technical aspects of the surgery went very well," said Cooper, the clinical chief of neurosurgery at the hospital of the rich and famous where Frank Sinatra and Michael Jackson were patients recently. "The tumor is totally removed... We expect full recovery."

The violet-eyed, Oscar-winning actress ("Butterfield 8" in 1960 and "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" in 1966) underwent four hours of surgery to remove the tumour. She was moving her arms and legs after Thursday's operation, and was expected to be in intensive care for about 24 hours.

The tumor, which will be examined further, was in the brain lining near the left parietal lobe, just behind and above the left ear. The region governs the recognition of sensations such as pain, heat and cold, and plays a role in speech functions.

Miss Taylor has had several serious hospitalisations over the years, and at least 20 major operations. She nearly died from a bout with pneumonia in 1990.

AP - Los Angeles

## briefing

### TRANSPORT

#### Watchdog attacks rail firms for misleading public

The railway passenger watchdog has attacked train companies over "blatant fiddling on punctuality".

In a talk to rail professionals, David Bertram, the chairman of the Central Rail Users' Consultative Committee, said that companies were inserting an extra 10 minutes before the final stop in a train's journey in order to avoid compensating customers for late arrivals.

He told the conference on "The New Railway": "To measure the punctuality of a train from Edinburgh to its arrival time in Penzance, when it may have been late en route and missed lots of connections, is wrong." A spokesman for the committee also pointed out that it was difficult to see why the journey from Peterborough to the capital took up to 10 minutes longer than services running in the other direction.

Payments to travellers are made by train companies under the Passenger Charter, which was introduced in 1992.

Companies denied they were deliberately misleading passengers. A spokesman for the Association of Train Operating Companies, which represents all 25 passenger services, said: "It is necessary to have some sort of contingency plans for rail journeys especially into London which is frequently congested." Randeep Ramesh

### FOOD

#### Faster route to healthy diet

An American company is aiming to cash in on the growth in healthier eating and the beef scare when it launches 100 fast-food outlets in Britain.

Calvin's Barbecue claims to be the more authentic taste of the United States and is investing around £25m in the restaurants which will serve chicken, fish and pork as opposed to the more standard fare of beef. The first one will open opposite a McDonald's site in Birmingham next month to be followed by 18 more in the West Midlands.

The company, which is backed by a group of New York restaurateurs, believes there is a lack of competition in the Midlands and plans to open the remaining 80 outlets in the area over the next three years. It expects to create about 500 jobs.

Calvin Johnson, managing director, said: "There is a market niche for something in the same price range as McDonald's, providing fresh food which you can watch coming off a barbecue grill."

### CRIME

#### Youngsters get taste of prison life

A town's would-be criminals are being persuaded to go straight by being confronted by the grim facts of prison life, it was disclosed yesterday.

Cleveland Police said there had been a 50 per cent drop in re-offending rates in Stockton after the launch of a scheme to tell young offenders what it was really like in jail.

Special sessions are organised in which a prison officer tells the youngsters, who have all clocked up their second caution, all about slopping out and bullying. They also learn about restraints and equipment that can be used on inmates.

Parents or guardians accompanying them have been equally shocked by the "warts and all" presentations. One boy's father said: "There's no excuse for him getting into trouble again now he knows what to expect if he does."

Inspector Ian Birch, who helps run the scheme, said: "One unforeseen bonus was that other members of the family, including brothers, sisters and friends of the person to be cautioned also attend on a voluntary basis."

Consequently peer pressure to commit crimes may be reduced as more people than anticipated now know the consequences of committing crime".

### HOUSING

#### Extra £7.9m for homeless

A scheme designed to help homeless people find permanent accommodation received a welcome boost yesterday after the Government made an extra £7.9m available.

The housing minister, James Clappison, said the extra finances should encourage homelessness organisations to come forward, and apply for grants to assist with the running costs of their projects.

He said: "For 1997/98 the Government has made available £7.9m which will help single people in housing need."

"In addition to continuing to fund all eligible existing projects, this means we shall be inviting bids from voluntary organisations to set up new schemes."

The grant programme has been particularly successful in helping homeless people find and keep accommodation and continues to represent good value for money."

The type of projects that have previously benefited from these grants include the national Homelessness Advice Service and the National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux.

Applications for aid should be made to Homelessness and Housing Management Policy Division, Zone 2/A2, Eland House, Bressenden Place, London SW1E 5DU. David Garfinkel

### TOURISM

#### Americans given rough guide

Writers from all over the world gathered in London yesterday to mark the International Day of the Tourist Guide.

Travel experts took a tour through London to help them compile routes for future influxes of tourists to Britain.

However, there is a problem with publications. The Guide for Americans Visiting Britain originated at Cornell University but has attracted the attention of tourists from all parts of the globe. It apparently purports to be a serious entrant into the market but it may prove disastrous if its users take too much of its advice.

Particular fun is to be had with the beef crisis. The guide offers these words on the difficulties of ordering in a restaurant: "The best cuts of meat, like the best bottles of gin, bear her majesty's seal, called the British Stamp of Excellence. Tell the waiter you want BSE beef and don't settle for anything less."

It also says that black cabs are sponsored by the state and cost only £2 no matter how far you travel. Buses are even cheaper with threepence being good for any journey to your stated destination.



### NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING

Recycled paper made up 41.2% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1996

### THE INDEPENDENT ABROAD

Australia ..... Sch40 Nlands .... P15.00  
Belgium ..... Bf160 Italy ..... L4,500

Carribean .....



# only Currys bring you all this

**SALE**  
LAST 10 DAYS!

LAUNDRY  
SAVE UP TO £150

SERVIS 1000 Spin Autowasher  
■ Quick wash.  
■ Half load option.  
Model F1501W.  
Was £349.99.  
Was £269.99.  
**BUY NOW PAY 6 MONTHS LATER**

BOSCH 1000 Spin Ecological Autowasher  
■ Delay start timer.  
■ 14 wash programmes.  
Model WFT2000.  
Was £299.99.  
**BUY NOW PAY 12 MONTHS LATER**

CANDY 1000 Spin Ecological Washer Dryer  
Energy save control.  
Model ALISE 1000ES.  
In-store Price £459.99.  
Was £399.99.  
**BUY NOW PAY 6 MONTHS LATER**

HOOVER 1000 Spin Soft Wave Washer Dryer  
■ Ecological wash system.  
■ Cross guard action.  
Model AB754.  
Was £349.99.  
**BUY NOW PAY 12 MONTHS LATER**

WHITE KNIGHT 7kg Tumble Dryer  
■ Condensate cycle.  
■ 2 heat settings.  
■ Compact size.  
Model 311.  
In-store Price £199.99.

FINAL REDUCTION  
WHITE KNIGHT 7kg Tumble Dryer  
■ Reverse tumble action.  
■ 2 heat settings.  
Model 420AW. Was £199.99.  
In-store Price £149.99.

ZANUSSI 1000 Spin Autowasher  
■ Half load button.  
■ Rinse hold function.  
■ Economy option.  
Model ZWD1000.  
Was £249.99.  
**BUY NOW PAY 6 MONTHS LATER**

HOTPOINT 1000 Spin 'Aquarius'  
■ De Luxe Autowasher.  
■ Aquarius wash system.  
■ Super Wash.  
Model WZD1000.  
Was £299.99.  
**BUY NOW PAY 10 MONTHS LATER**

ZANUSSI 1000 Spin Autowasher  
■ Variable wash time.  
■ Also available in:  
Almond.  
Model FL1085.  
Was £499.99.  
**BUY NOW PAY 10 MONTHS LATER**

RECOMMENDED BY GOOD HOUSEKEEPING  
ZANUSSI 1000 Spin 'Aquarius'  
■ Split inverter motor.  
■ Quiet operation.  
■ 19 programmes.  
Model FL1085. Was £579.99.  
**BUY NOW PAY 12 MONTHS LATER**

AEG 1000 Spin 'Digitalwash' Autowasher  
■ Self-adjusting water level.  
■ Quiet operation.  
■ 19 programmes.  
Model F1500. Was £579.99.  
**BUY NOW PAY 12 MONTHS LATER**

DISHWASHERS  
SAVE UP TO £160

CANDY Full Size 'Ecosystem' Dishwasher  
■ 4 programmes.  
■ Delicate cycle.  
Model C4100.  
Was £399.99.  
**BUY NOW PAY 6 MONTHS LATER**

HOOVER Full Size 'Soft Wave' Dishwasher  
■ Multi-directional spray.  
■ Economy option.  
■ Heat boost drying.  
Model D7436.  
Was £429.99.  
**BUY NOW PAY 6 MONTHS LATER**

HOTPOINT Full Size 'Aquarius' Dishwasher  
■ Adjustable upper basket.  
■ 8 programmes.  
Model DF23P.  
Price Excluding Trade-in £399.99.  
**BUY NOW PAY 12 MONTHS LATER**

RECOMMENDED BY GOOD HOUSEKEEPING  
BOSCH Full Size 'Ecological' Dishwasher  
■ Electronic delay timer.  
■ 14 programmes.  
Model SH5442T. Was £439.99.  
**BUY NOW PAY 12 MONTHS LATER**

BOSCH Full Size 'Ecological'  
Dishwasher  
■ Very quiet operation.  
■ 14 programmes.  
Model SH56012. Was £519.99.  
**BUY NOW PAY 12 MONTHS LATER**

AEG Full Size 'Oko Favorit' Dishwasher  
■ 5 programmes.  
■ Low noise design.  
Model D7346. Was £519.99.  
**BUY NOW PAY 18 MONTHS LATER**

BOSCH Full Size 'Ecological' Dishwasher  
■ 8 programmes.  
■ 18 wash temperatures.  
Model SH56022. Was £569.99.  
**BUY NOW PAY 12 MONTHS LATER**

RECOMMENDED BY GOOD HOUSEKEEPING  
BOSCH Full Size 'Ecological' Dishwasher  
■ Electronic delay timer.  
■ 14 programmes.  
Model SH56022. Was £569.99.  
**BUY NOW PAY 12 MONTHS LATER**

LEISURE  
SAVE UP TO £1499

HOOVER 1.0 cu.ft. Double Width Gas Cooker  
■ Available in Racing Green, Regal Blue or Claret.  
■ Double oven. ■ Non-stick griddle. ■ Warming plate.  
Model RANGEMASTER 110. Delivery straight from manufacturer. Was £1999. Was £179.99.

MATTSUI 1.0 cu.ft. Family Size Touch Control Microwave  
■ Digital clock. ■ 10 power levels. ■ Auto-weight defrost. ■ 350 watt power output.  
Model 1967. Was £179.99.

PARKSON COWAN 0.6 cu.ft. Compact Microwave  
■ Single oven with glass door.  
Model 6200. Was £199.99.  
In-store Price £149.99.  
**BUY NOW PAY 6 MONTHS LATER**

ELECTROLUX 0.7 cu.ft. Fridge Freezer  
■ Fridge-freezer.  
■ Adjustable thermostat.  
Model E246B. Was £299.99.  
In-store Price £229.99.  
**BUY NOW PAY 6 MONTHS LATER**

STOVES 50cm Slot-in Gas Cooker  
■ Separate oven and grill.  
Model SG55. Was £599.99.  
In-store Price £449.99.  
**BUY NOW PAY 6 MONTHS LATER**

BELLING 60cm Slot-in Electric Cooker  
■ Fan main oven.  
■ Ceramic hob.  
Model 625W. Was £699.99.  
In-store Price £549.99.  
**BUY NOW PAY 12 MONTHS LATER**

HOTPOINT 1.0 cu.ft. Minal Plus Freezer  
■ Double door.  
■ Large front door.  
Model FDF10W. Was £799.99.  
In-store Price £599.99.  
**BUY NOW PAY 12 MONTHS LATER**

FRIGIDAIRE 0.7 cu.ft. Chest Freezer  
■ Fridge-freezer.  
■ Adjustable thermostat.  
Model FCRF07. Was £199.99.  
In-store Price £149.99.  
**BUY NOW PAY 6 MONTHS LATER**

FRIGIDAIRE 0.5 cu.ft. Upright Freezer  
■ Single door.  
Model FUF05. Was £199.99.  
In-store Price £149.99.  
**BUY NOW PAY 6 MONTHS LATER**

FRIGIDAIRE 5.4 cu.ft. Fridge Freezer  
■ Fridge-freezer.  
Model FCD10. Was £299.99.  
Price Excluding Trade-in £209.99.

CANDY 8.0 cu.ft. Fridge Freezer  
■ 4.3 cu.ft. Fridge.  
Model CDF20G. Was £219.99.

NOVA SCOTIA 5.1 cu.ft. Fridge  
■ Reversible door.  
■ 2 separate compartments.  
Model NS1405106. In-store Price £119.99.

FRIGIDAIRE 4.1 cu.ft.  
Upright Freezer  
■ Fast freeze section.  
■ Light up light.  
Model BC60C. Was £199.99.

BEKO 4.1 cu.ft.  
Upright Freezer  
■ Fast freeze section.  
■ Light up light.  
Model BCF400. Was £199.99.

LEC 4.0 cu.ft. Under Counter  
Fridge-Freezer  
■ Electronic control.  
Model L113. Price Excluding Trade-in £209.99.

LEC 4.0 cu.ft. Under Counter  
Fridge-Freezer  
■ Electronic control.  
Model L113. Price Excluding Trade-in £209.99.

LEC 4.0 cu.ft. Under Counter  
Fridge-Freezer  
■ Electronic control.  
Model L113. Price Excluding Trade-in £209.99.

LEC 4.0 cu.ft. Under Counter  
Fridge-Freezer  
■ Electronic control.  
Model L113. Price Excluding Trade-in £209.99.

LEC 4.0 cu.ft. Under Counter  
Fridge-Freezer  
■ Electronic control.  
Model L113. Price Excluding Trade-in £209.99.

LEC 4.0 cu.ft. Under Counter  
Fridge-Freezer  
■ Electronic control.  
Model L113. Price Excluding Trade-in £209.99.

LEC 4.0 cu.ft. Under Counter  
Fridge-Freezer  
■ Electronic control.  
Model L113. Price Excluding Trade-in £209.99.

LEC 4.0 cu.ft. Under Counter  
Fridge-Freezer  
■ Electronic control.  
Model L113. Price Excluding Trade-in £209.99.

LEC 4.0 cu.ft. Under Counter  
Fridge-Freezer  
■ Electronic control.  
Model L113. Price Excluding Trade-in £209.99.

LEC 4.0 cu.ft. Under Counter  
Fridge-Freezer  
■ Electronic control.  
Model L113. Price Excluding Trade-in £209.99.

LEC 4.0 cu.ft. Under Counter  
Fridge-Freezer  
■ Electronic control.  
Model L113. Price Excluding Trade-in £209.99.

LEC 4.0 cu.ft. Under Counter  
Fridge-Freezer  
■ Electronic control.  
Model L113. Price Excluding Trade-in £209.99.

LEC 4.0 cu.ft. Under Counter  
Fridge-Freezer  
■ Electronic control.  
Model L113. Price Excluding Trade-in £209.99.

LEC 4.0 cu.ft. Under Counter  
Fridge-Freezer  
■ Electronic control.  
Model L113. Price Excluding Trade-in £209.99.

LEC 4.0 cu.ft. Under Counter  
Fridge-Freezer  
■ Electronic control.  
Model L113. Price Excluding Trade-in £209.99.

LEC 4.0 cu.ft. Under Counter  
Fridge-Freezer  
■ Electronic control.  
Model L113. Price Excluding Trade-in £209.99.

LEC 4.0 cu.ft. Under Counter  
Fridge-Freezer  
■ Electronic control.  
Model L113. Price Excluding Trade-in £209.99.

LEC 4.0 cu.ft. Under Counter  
Fridge-Freezer  
■ Electronic control.  
Model L113. Price Excluding Trade-in £209.99.

LEC 4.0 cu.ft. Under Counter  
Fridge-Freezer  
■ Electronic control.  
Model L113. Price Excluding Trade-in £209.99.

LEC 4.0 cu.ft. Under Counter  
Fridge-Freezer  
■ Electronic control.  
Model L113. Price Excluding Trade-in £209.99.

LEC 4.0 cu.ft. Under Counter  
Fridge-Freezer  
■ Electronic control.  
Model L113. Price Excluding Trade-in £209.99.

LEC 4.0 cu.ft. Under Counter  
Fridge-Freezer  
■ Electronic control.  
Model L113. Price Excluding Trade-in £209.99.

LEC 4.0 cu.ft. Under Counter  
Fridge-Freezer  
■ Electronic control.  
Model L113. Price Excluding Trade-in £209.99.

LEC 4.0 cu.ft. Under Counter  
Fridge-Freezer  
■ Electronic control.  
Model L113. Price Excluding Trade-in £209.99.

LEC 4.0 cu.ft. Under Counter  
Fridge-Freezer  
■ Electronic control.  
Model L113. Price Excluding Trade-in £209.99.

LEC 4.0 cu.ft. Under Counter  
Fridge-Freezer  
■ Electronic control.  
Model L113. Price Excluding Trade-in £209.99.

LEC 4.0 cu.ft. Under Counter  
Fridge-Freezer  
■ Electronic control.  
Model L113. Price Excluding Trade-in £209.99.

LEC 4.0 cu.ft. Under Counter  
Fridge-Freezer  
■ Electronic control.  
Model L113. Price Excluding Trade-in £209.99.

LEC 4.0 cu.ft. Under Counter  
Fridge-Freezer  
■ Electronic control.  
Model L113. Price Excluding Trade-in £209.99.

LEC 4.0 cu.ft. Under Counter  
Fridge-Freezer  
■ Electronic control.  
Model L113. Price Excluding Trade-in £209.99.

LEC 4.0 cu.ft. Under Counter  
Fridge-Freezer  
■ Electronic control.  
Model L113. Price Excluding Trade-in £209.99.

LEC 4.0 cu.ft. Under Counter  
Fridge-Freezer  
■ Electronic control.  
Model L113. Price Excluding Trade-in £209.99.

LEC 4.0 cu.ft. Under Counter  
Fridge-Freezer  
■ Electronic control.  
Model L113. Price Excluding Trade-in £209.99.

LEC 4.0 cu.ft. Under Counter  
Fridge-Freezer  
■ Electronic control.  
Model L113. Price Excluding Trade-in £209.99.

LEC 4.0 cu.ft. Under Counter  
Fridge-Freezer  
■ Electronic control.  
Model L113. Price Excluding Trade-in £209.99.

LEC 4.0 cu.ft. Under Counter  
Fridge-Freezer  
■ Electronic control.  
Model L113. Price Excluding Trade-in £209.99.

LEC 4.0 cu.ft. Under Counter  
Fridge-Freezer  
■ Electronic control.  
Model L113. Price Excluding Trade-in £209.99.

LEC 4.0 cu.ft. Under Counter  
Fridge-Freezer  
■ Electronic control.  
Model L113. Price Excluding Trade-in £209.99.

LEC 4.0 cu.ft. Under Counter  
Fridge-Freezer  
■ Electronic control.  
Model L113. Price Excluding Trade-in £209.99.

LEC 4.0 cu.ft. Under Counter  
Fridge-Freezer  
■ Electronic control.  
Model L113. Price Excluding Trade-in £209.99.

LEC 4.0 cu.ft. Under Counter  
Fridge-Freezer  
■ Electronic control.  
Model L113. Price Excluding Trade-in £209.99.

LEC 4.0 cu.ft. Under Counter  
Fridge-Freezer  
■ Electronic control.  
Model L113. Price Excluding Trade-in £209.99.

LEC 4.0 cu.ft. Under Counter  
Fridge-Freezer  
■ Electronic control.  
Model L113. Price Excluding Trade-in £209.99.

LEC 4.0 cu.ft. Under Counter  
Fridge-Freezer  
■ Electronic control.  
Model L113. Price Excluding Trade-in £209.99.

LEC 4.0 cu.ft. Under Counter  
Fridge-Freezer  
■ Electronic control.  
Model L113. Price Excluding Trade-in £209.99.

LEC 4.0 cu.ft. Under Counter  
Fridge-Freezer  
■ Electronic control.  
Model L113. Price Excluding Trade-in £209.99.

LEC 4.0 cu.ft. Under Counter  
Fridge-Freezer  
■ Electronic control.  
Model L113. Price Excluding Trade-in £209.99.

LEC 4.0 cu.ft. Under Counter  
Fridge-Freezer  
■ Electronic control.  
Model L113. Price Excluding Trade-in £209.99.

LEC 4.0 cu.ft. Under Counter  
Fridge-Freezer  
■ Electronic control.  
Model L113. Price Excluding Trade-in £209.99.

LEC 4.0 cu.ft. Under Counter  
Fridge-Freezer  
■ Electronic control.  
Model L113. Price Excluding Trade-in £209.99.

LEC 4.0 cu.ft. Under Counter  
Fridge-Freezer  
■ Electronic control.  
Model L113. Price Excluding Trade-in £209.99.

LEC 4.0 cu.ft. Under Counter  
Fridge-Freezer  
■ Electronic control.  
Model L113. Price Excluding Trade-in £209.99.

LEC 4.0 cu.ft. Under Counter  
Fridge-Freezer  
■ Electronic control.  
Model L113. Price Excluding Trade-in £209.99.

LEC 4.0 cu.ft. Under Counter  
Fridge-Freezer  
■ Electronic control.  
Model L113. Price Excluding Trade-in £209.99.

LEC 4.0 cu.ft. Under Counter  
Fridge-Freezer  
■ Electronic control.  
Model L1

# It's a rainier than average February; so why are the water companies talking again about crisis?

Scepticism as utility chiefs blame climate for shortages. Nicholas Schoon reports.

Water companies claimed yesterday that England will face a crisis of permanent drought unless they are allowed to boost resources and build new reservoirs and pipelines.

The Water Companies' Association claimed climate change and steadily rising demand from their customers meant that cutting mains leakage and persuading people to waste less water could not prevent a looming crisis and fundamental changes in lifestyles. Daily cut-offs for several hours would become common, and green lawns and car washing would be consigned to history.

But there was scepticism about the companies' claims. If the solutions they want are adopted, then customers' bills will rise to pay for the expensive new reservoirs. It will also leave companies selling more and more water, raising their turnover and profits.

The Environment Agency, the Government body which regulates rivers and water resources, said there was no case for starting work on major new water supplies immediately.

Oftau, the industry's economic regulator, agreed saying companies first had to do more work on restraining rising demand from their customers — and that included more metering.

"Water conservation delivers



Cracks in the argument: The effects of drought on a river bed in Kent last summer. Environmentalists say climate alone is not always to blame

Photograph: Brian Harris

results more quickly, more economically and without the environmental risks — of new water transfers and reservoirs," said Dr Geoff Mance, the agency's water management chief. Friends of the Earth called on the companies to invest in conservation measures.

Ray Tennant, chairman of the association which represents 17 of the smaller water companies in England and Wales, said without new supplies "cus-

tomers could have to accept hosepipe and sprinkler restrictions as normal practice every summer. We would have to restrict the number of new houses built each year ... customers may have to go without water

for periods of the day. This may be common practice in less developed countries, but we are supposed to be one of the most advanced nations in the world".

Meteorological Office figures show there has been a run of dry years since 1989. But a spokesman said: "We can't see any change in the climate. There are a little hiccups and this could well be one of them. It's far too early to say [that the climate has become drier]."

While last month had exceptionally low rainfall, this month is going to have above average. By yesterday the average quantity of rain for the entire month had already fallen — and there is still a week of February left. This winter's overall rainfall looks like being pretty close to the average the last 30 years.

Mr Tennant, managing di-

rector of South East Water and Mid Southern Water, said yesterday that he was convinced England's climate had become drier and the industry had to plan on the basis that this would

continue or worsen. He said a growing number of households

and restrictions under a privatised industry.

The water companies all planned to cut mains leakage and encourage their customers to use water less wastefully.

which meant water meters for some. But those policies alone could not cope with the growing gap between limited supplies and rising demand.

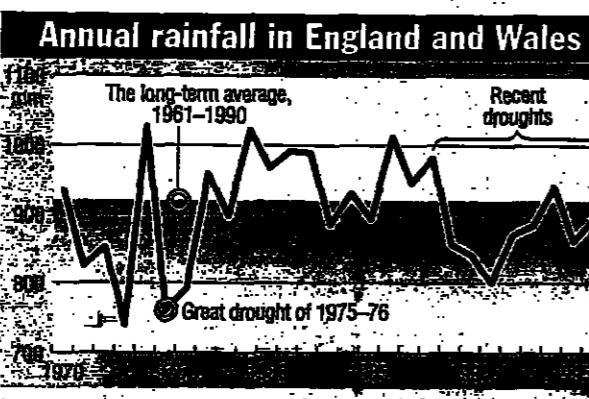
In some areas, such as East

Customers may have to go without water for periods of the day.

and West Sussex, plans to build thousands of new homes should be dropped unless there were also plans for new water supplies. "There are no major rivers and all the water resources are already fully exploited," Mr Tennant said. One major new reservoir was needed to serve Kent, Surrey and East and West Sussex, and another to serve East Anglia.

The Water Services Association, which represents nine of the big ten water companies, said it supported the line taken by the smaller companies but dissociated itself from talk of a looming crisis.

All the companies are trying to influence the public, politicians and the water regulators in the run up to the next water bill-setting exercise in 1999. The companies have to draw up their investment plans for Ofwat, the industry's price-setting watchdog, covering the next decade by the end of 1998. Several want to include new resources in those plans and to be allowed to raise their customers' bills to pay for them.



## Haemophiliac boy refused treatment

Glenda Cooper  
Social Affairs Correspondent

A nine-year-old boy suffering from haemophilia is taking High Court action against his health authority after it refused to fund treatment which is generally preferred by doctors.

In what is believed to be the first case of its kind, the boy is taking action against Bury and Rochdale Health Authority after it decided that he would no longer be treated with a purer, artificial form of the clotting agent Factor VIII, but a cheaper version which carries a higher risk of viral infection.

Doctors are largely unanimous in their view that recombinant Factor VIII is preferable to plasma-derived Factor VIII, which is made from treated human blood, for all haemophiliacs but especially for children.

Rebecca Fitzpatrick, the boy's solicitor, said the health authority's decision was "irrational, unfair and perhaps illegal". He had been treated with recombinant since October but he and other children were informed in January that they would now be treated with plasma-derived Factor VIII.

Doctors are applying for leave to seek a judicial review with a

hearing next week. Meanwhile, they hope for an intermediate injunction which will force the health authority to continue to provide the treatment.

"They are not giving him the best treatment available. It is a blanket-policy decision covering potentially hundreds of people and they have not considered individual cases," she said.

Plasma-derived Factor VIII fell under the spotlight when in the early Eighties when 1,200 haemophiliacs were infected with HIV from contaminated Factor VIII, and around 3,000 haemophiliacs have been infected with Hepatitis C to date.

Screening processes have since been tightened but two viruses, Hepatitis A and parvo-virus, are resistant to all sterilisation techniques, and there is also the danger posed by viruses yet to be identified.

The UK's use of recombinant is between 4-10 per cent of all Factor VIII given compared with 50 per cent in Germany. But it costs half as much again as the plasma-derived product, and if a health authority refuses to pay for it, then a doctor has little choice but to prescribe the less safe product.

Tony Wilson, chief executive of the Haemophilia Society said yesterday: "[We believe]

that recombinant Factor VIII should be available for the treatment of children with Haemophilia A and [we] deplore the fact that parents should be forced to take legal action to try to obtain treatment for their children."

"The Society believes that the current situation, with children in some parts of the country being able to receive recombinant Factor VIII and others not, is grossly inequitable..."

But Dr Kevin Snee, director of public health for the authority, said that the main benefit of transferring patients to recombinant Factor VIII "relates around the removal of a hypothetical risk" and would cost an additional £200,000 per year in Bury and Rochdale. As the current financial situation stands, Dr Snee stated that the money could be better spent on other treatments of greater benefit.

"Current blood products are safe and therefore recombinant factor VIII is difficult to justify when compared to other health service priorities," he said. "However as the situation becomes clearer with regard to the uncertainties over antibody production with recombinant factor VIII our position will be reviewed."

The UK's use of recombinant

is between 4-10 per cent of all Factor VIII given compared with 50 per cent in Germany. But it costs half as much again as the plasma-derived product, and if a health authority refuses to pay for it, then a doctor has little choice but to prescribe the less safe product.

Tony Wilson, chief executive of the Haemophilia Society said yesterday: "[We believe]

## Kidnap fear for missing girls

The distraught parents of two French girls missing in London appealed yesterday for help in finding them. They said that they feared teenagers Laetitia Ranson and Anjelique Wozniak may have been kidnapped after becoming separated from their friends during a visit to the capital on Wednesday.

A team of 15 detectives, backed by uniformed officers carrying photographs of the girls, is combing the West End in the hope of finding them.

Anjelique's father, Noel Wozniak, 45, said it was out of character for the girls to go off on their own. They were unused to big cities and had rarely been away from their home vil-

lage of Grenay, near Lille. Jacky Ranson, 49, father of 16-year-old Laetitia, told a news conference at Scotland Yard: "We would like anyone to get in touch with the police and we appeal to our daughters, if they are safe, to go to any policeman or place of safety. We just want to know they are all right."

Mr Wozniak added: "We think maybe they have been kidnapped. Something bad must have happened to them."

The girls were last seen at 4pm on Wednesday at Selfridges in Oxford Street. Detectives are studying closed circuit television videos from the store and nearby premises in the hope of spotting them.

Anyone with information is asked to telephone police on 0181 246 0776.

## The General Accident Premier PEP



Would you rather aim to be up here with General Accident's Premier PEP?

Or down here and still paying tax!

### EXCITING RETURNS | SAFELY MANAGED

**GA** In these times of lower interest rates, you're probably concerned that the return on your building society savings is bumping along at the bottom of the graph. And is liable to tax.

**GA** General Accident's Premier PEP aims to make sure your money works harder.

**GA** The Premier PEP enables you to invest in the success of the UK's 100 leading companies. Major names including BT, Guinness, Marks & Spencer and Tesco.

**GA** Returns are usually tax free depending on individual circumstances. There are no initial charges, no exit charge and just a 1% annual management charge.



**GA** Most reassuring of all, the Premier PEP is available from General Accident, another of the UK's leading companies with outstanding financial strength. And the attractions don't end there!

#### CASH BACK BOOSTER OFFER

**GA** We want to ensure your investment in the Premier PEP gets off to an excellent start. So there's a very special offer for anyone who invests before 27th March 1997.

**GA** Our Cash Back Booster offer means we will pay you a cheque for £50 after six months if your Premier PEP investment fails to grow by at least 4% in the first six months\*

## General Accident Investments

Please remember the value of a PEP can go down as well as up so you may not get back the amount invested. The tax situation for PEPs could change in the future. (\*) 27 March 1997 to 27 September 1997. Government imposed Stamp Duty may be payable. In addition, the pricing basis of the underlying unit trust may change and this can have the effect of increasing or depressing prices. Full written details are available on request.

POST NOW FOR DETAILS TO: Premier PEP, General Accident, FREPOST YO550, York, YO1 1BR.  
Please send me further information about the GA Premier PEP and an application form, without obligation.

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms \_\_\_\_\_

Forename(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Surname \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (include STD code) Day \_\_\_\_\_ Eves \_\_\_\_\_

Smoker  Non-Smoker  Note a non-smoker is a person who has not used any tobacco products in the last 12 months.

We never make your name and address available to unconnected organisations. We will occasionally tell you, by post or phone, about other products or services offered by ourselves and associated GA Group companies. Tick the box  if you would prefer not to receive this information.

CALL 0500 100 200  
LINES OPEN 24 HOURS

GENERAL ACCIDENT PEP MANAGERS LTD, REGISTERED IN ENGLAND  
N° 2267956, 2 ROUGER STREET, YORK, YO1 1HR. REGULATED BY IMRO  
For your security, calls will be recorded and may be monitored

# only Currys bring you all this



LAUNDRY  
SAVE UP TO £150

**SERVIS** 1000 Spin Autowasher  
■ Quick wash.  
■ Half load option.  
Model M301W.  
Was £259.99.  
In-store Price £239.99.  
**BUY NOW PAY 6 MONTHS LATER**

**PHILCO** 1200 Spin 'Econetic'  
Autowasher  
■ Quick wash.  
■ Variable temperature.  
■ 14 wash programmes.  
Model F1081.  
Was £299.99, in-store  
Price £239.99. **BUY NOW PAY 10 MONTHS LATER**

**HOTPOINT** 1000 Spin 'First Edition'  
Autowasher  
■ Quick wash.  
■ Heat Economy wash.  
Model F1081.  
Was £299.99.  
**BUY NOW PAY 6 MONTHS LATER**

**HOOVER** 1000 Spin 'Soft Wave'  
Autowasher  
■ Ecological wash system.  
■ Cradle action.  
Model A1272.  
Was £299.99.  
**BUY NOW PAY 6 MONTHS LATER**

**ZANUSSI** 1000 Spin Autowasher  
■ Mini button.  
■ Economy option.  
Model F1081.  
Was £299.99.  
**BUY NOW PAY 10 MONTHS LATER**

**HOTPOINT** 1000 Spin 'Aquarius'  
De Luxe Autowasher  
■ Aquatic wash system.  
■ Super rinse.  
Model F1082.  
Was £299.99.  
**BUY NOW PAY 6 MONTHS LATER**

**ZANUSSI** 1000 Spin Autowasher  
■ Quick wash.  
■ Also available in  
Metallic Blue.  
Model P1085.  
Was £299.99.  
**BUY NOW PAY 10 MONTHS LATER**

**AEG** 1000 Spin 'Digitronic' Autowasher  
■ Self-adjusting water level.  
■ Quiet operation.  
■ 15 programmes.  
Model F1081.  
**BUY NOW PAY 12 MONTHS LATER**

**DISHWASHERS**  
SAVE UP TO £160

**CANDY** Full Size 'Ecosystem' Dishwasher  
■ 4 programmes.  
■ Delicate cycle.  
Model F1081.  
Was £369.99.  
In-store Price £249.99.  
**BUY NOW PAY 6 MONTHS LATER**

**CANDY** Full Size Dishwasher  
■ Softline styling.  
■ 7 programmes.  
Model F1081.  
Was £369.99.  
**BUY NOW PAY 6 MONTHS LATER**

**HOTPOINT** Full size 'Aquarius' Dishwasher  
■ Adjustable upper basket.  
■ 8 programmes.  
Model F1082.  
Price Excluding  
Trade-in £439.99.  
**BUY NOW PAY 10 MONTHS LATER**

**BOSCH** Full Size 'Ecological'  
Dishwasher  
■ Very quiet operation.  
■ 8 programmes.  
Model SMI5472.  
Was £319.99.  
**BUY NOW PAY 12 MONTHS LATER**

**AEG** Full Size 'Oko Favorit' Dishwasher  
■ 5 programmes.  
■ Low noise design.  
Model F1081.  
Was £319.99.  
**BUY NOW PAY 18 MONTHS LATER**

**BOSCH** Full Size 'Ecological' Dishwasher  
■ 6 programmes.  
■ 3 wash temperatures.  
Model SMI5402.  
Was £369.99.  
**BUY NOW PAY 12 MONTHS LATER**

**NOVA SCOTIA**  
EXCLUSIVE  
5.1 cu.ft. Fridge  
■ Adjustable shelves.  
■ Adjustable thermostat.  
Model N1000P116.  
In-store Price £199.99.

**FRIGIDAIRE**  
5.1 cu.ft. Fridge  
■ Push button defrost.  
■ CFC Free.  
Model CFC26H.  
Was £199.99.

**BEKO**  
4.1 cu.ft.  
Light Freezer  
■ Fast freeze section.  
■ Indicator light.  
Model B2602.  
Was £149.99.

**LEC** EXCLUSIVE  
4.0 cu.ft. Fridge Freezer  
■ Automatic defrost.  
■ Reversible door.  
Model L113.  
Price Excluding Trade-in £209.99.

**CANDY**  
5.1 cu.ft. Fridge Freezer  
■ 4.3 cu.ft. Fridge.  
Model CDF252.  
In-store Price £219.99.

**HOTPOINT**  
5.1 cu.ft. Fridge Freezer  
■ Front loading.  
Model EW11P.  
Was £279.99.  
**BUY NOW PAY 12 MONTHS LATER**

**FRIGIDAIRE**  
7.5 cu.ft. Chest Freezer  
■ Fast freezing rate.  
■ Fast Freezer facility.  
■ Electronic thermostat.  
Model 234SF.  
In-store Price £229.99.  
**BUY NOW PAY 6 MONTHS LATER**

**ELECTROLUX** 7.9 cu.ft. Fridge Freezer  
■ Fast freeze.  
■ External thermostat.  
Model 334SF.  
In-store Price £279.99.  
**BUY NOW PAY 6 MONTHS LATER**

**AGM** 12.3 cu.ft. Fridge Freezer  
■ 2 compartments.  
■ External thermostat.  
■ External thermostat.  
Model 3534.  
In-store Price £449.99.  
**BUY NOW PAY 8 MONTHS LATER**

**HOTPOINT**  
12.0 cu.ft. Metal Freezer  
■ Dual oven.  
Model EW17P.  
Was £379.99.  
**BUY NOW PAY 12 MONTHS LATER**

**FRIGIDAIRE**  
8.0 cu.ft. Fridge Freezer  
■ 4.3 cu.ft. Fridge.  
Model CDF252.  
In-store Price £219.99.

**LEC** EXCLUSIVE  
8.0 cu.ft. Fridge Freezer  
■ 4.3 cu.ft. Fridge.  
Model CDF252.  
In-store Price £219.99.

**CANDY**  
FINAL REDUCTIONS  
ON ALL THESE CLEARANCE BARGAINS

**BOSCH** 1000 Spin Ecological Autowasher  
■ Delay start timer.  
■ 19 programmes.  
Model WFF2000.  
Price Excluding Trade-in  
£120. Voucher Price  
£49.99.  
**BUY NOW PAY 12 MONTHS LATER**

**CANDY** 1000 Spin Ecological Washer Dryer  
■ Delay start timer.  
Model AL1000ES.  
In-store Price £499.99.  
**BUY NOW PAY 6 MONTHS LATER**

**HOOVER** 1000 Spin 'Soft Wave' Washer Dryer  
■ Ecological wash system.  
■ Cradle action.  
Model A1274.  
Was £349.99.  
**BUY NOW PAY 12 MONTHS LATER**

**WHITE KNIGHT** 7th Tumble Dryer  
■ Cooldown cycle.  
■ Heat settings.  
■ Control panel.  
Model 311.  
In-store Price £199.99.

**FINAL REDUCTION**  
**WHITE KNIGHT** 11th Tumble Dryer  
■ Reverse tumble action.  
■ 2 heat settings.  
■ Control panel.  
Model CT470.  
In-store Price £199.99.  
**BUY NOW PAY 6 MONTHS LATER**

**ZANUSSI** 11th Condenser Dryer  
■ Reverse tumble action.  
■ 2 heat settings.  
■ Control panel.  
Model ZCD110.  
Was £249.99.  
**BUY NOW PAY 6 MONTHS LATER**

**SONY** 1000 Spin 'Ecowash'  
Autowasher  
■ Self-adjusting water level.  
■ Quiet operation.  
■ 15 programmes.  
Model KV1081.  
Was £399.99.  
**BUY NOW PAY 10 MONTHS LATER**

**HOTPOINT** 1000 Spin 'Aquarius'  
De Luxe Autowasher  
■ Aquatic wash system.  
■ Super rinse.  
Model F1082.  
Was £299.99.  
**BUY NOW PAY 6 MONTHS LATER**

**ZANUSSI** 1000 Spin Autowasher  
■ Mini button.  
■ Economy option.  
Model F1081.  
Was £299.99.  
**BUY NOW PAY 10 MONTHS LATER**

**AEG** 1000 Spin 'Aquarius'  
■ Self-adjusting water level.  
■ Quiet operation.  
■ 15 programmes.  
Model F1081.  
**BUY NOW PAY 12 MONTHS LATER**

**DISHWASHERS**  
SAVE UP TO £160

**CANDY** Full Size 'Ecosystem' Dishwasher  
■ 4 programmes.  
■ Delicate cycle.  
Model F1081.  
Was £369.99.  
In-store Price £249.99.  
**BUY NOW PAY 6 MONTHS LATER**

**CANDY** Full Size Dishwasher  
■ Softline styling.  
■ 7 programmes.  
Model F1081.  
Was £369.99.  
**BUY NOW PAY 6 MONTHS LATER**

**HOTPOINT** Full size 'Aquarius' Dishwasher  
■ Adjustable upper basket.  
■ 8 programmes.  
Model F1082.  
Price Excluding  
Trade-in £439.99.  
**BUY NOW PAY 10 MONTHS LATER**

**BOSCH** Full Size 'Ecological'  
Dishwasher  
■ Very quiet operation.  
■ 8 programmes.  
Model SMI5472.  
Was £319.99.  
**BUY NOW PAY 12 MONTHS LATER**

**AEG** Full Size 'Oko Favorit' Dishwasher  
■ 5 programmes.  
■ Low noise design.  
Model F1081.  
Was £319.99.  
**BUY NOW PAY 18 MONTHS LATER**

**BOSCH** Full Size 'Ecological' Dishwasher  
■ 6 programmes.  
■ 3 wash temperatures.  
Model SMI5402.  
Was £369.99.  
**BUY NOW PAY 12 MONTHS LATER**

**NOVA SCOTIA**  
EXCLUSIVE  
5.1 cu.ft. Fridge  
■ Adjustable shelves.  
■ Adjustable thermostat.  
Model N1000P116.  
In-store Price £199.99.

**FRIGIDAIRE**  
5.1 cu.ft. Fridge  
■ Push button defrost.  
■ CFC Free.  
Model CFC26H.  
Was £199.99.

**BEKO**  
4.1 cu.ft.  
Light Freezer  
■ Fast freeze section.  
■ Indicator light.  
Model B2602.  
Was £149.99.

**LEC** EXCLUSIVE  
4.0 cu.ft. Fridge Freezer  
■ Automatic defrost.  
■ Reversible door.  
Model L113.  
Price Excluding Trade-in £209.99.

**CANDY**  
5.1 cu.ft. Fridge Freezer  
■ 4.3 cu.ft. Fridge.  
Model CDF252.  
In-store Price £219.99.

**HOTPOINT**  
5.1 cu.ft. Fridge Freezer  
■ Front loading.  
Model EW11P.  
Was £279.99.  
**BUY NOW PAY 12 MONTHS LATER**

**FRIGIDAIRE**  
7.5 cu.ft. Chest Freezer  
■ Fast freezing rate.  
■ Fast Freezer facility.  
■ Electronic thermostat.  
Model 234SF.  
In-store Price £229.99.  
**BUY NOW PAY 6 MONTHS LATER**

**ELECTROLUX** 7.9 cu.ft. Fridge Freezer  
■ Fast freeze.  
■ External thermostat.  
Model 334SF.  
In-store Price £279.99.  
**BUY NOW PAY 6 MONTHS LATER**

**AGM** 12.3 cu.ft. Fridge Freezer  
■ 2 compartments.  
■ External thermostat.  
■ External thermostat.  
Model 3534.  
In-store Price £449.99.  
**BUY NOW PAY 8 MONTHS LATER**

**HOTPOINT**  
12.0 cu.ft. Metal Freezer  
■ Dual oven.  
Model EW17P.  
Was £379.99.  
**BUY NOW PAY 12 MONTHS LATER**

**FRIGIDAIRE**  
8.0 cu.ft. Fridge Freezer  
■ 4.3 cu.ft. Fridge.  
Model CDF252.  
In-store Price £219.99.

**LEC** EXCLUSIVE  
8.0 cu.ft. Fridge Freezer  
■ 4.3 cu.ft. Fridge.  
Model CDF252.  
In-store Price £219.99.

**CANDY**  
FINAL REDUCTIONS  
ON ALL THESE CLEARANCE BARGAINS

## BRITAIN'S BIGGEST ELECTRICAL RETAILER'S

**SALE** LAST 10 DAYS!

**SALE</b**

سيارات الامان

anager  
er gets  
or drug

torianshi  
onder-gu  
acy scan

true innovation

comes from looking at things differently

Innovation can overturn convention.

Convention says we know what a small car looks like. the Ka disagrees.

Convention also tells us how it small car handles.

the smooth, sure feel of the Ka says think again.

And convention tends to confine certain features to larger cars: yet central

locking, airbag, sunroof, steering wheel, hands-free integrated mobile phone and

CD player are all available with the Ka.

So is the Ka a new type of small car or a radical version of a large one?

It just depends how you look at it.

Call 0845 45 55 55 for further information.



## politics

# Major plays long game for economy to rescue the Tories' poll support

**Colin Brown**  
Chief Political Correspondent

A clear hint that John Major intends to play it long to give economic recovery a chance to rescue Conservative support was given yesterday by the Prime Minister in an electioneering tour in the North East.

Talking up the recovery, Mr Major said it was becoming increasingly understood by people that Britain was outperforming other European countries, including France and Germany, and the evidence of the up-turn was in the high street.

"How soon that translates itself into votes we will have to wait and see," Mr Major said. "I think the British people will see the prospects opening up. I don't think they will want to throw them away."

He shrugged off suggestions

that the Government would be unable to close the gap between the recovery and its low showing in the opinion polls. "I have always thought you would see the full recovery of support when people actually have an election date, and people see a clear-cut decision before them."

"It is at that stage people will sit back and think, 'Are things getting better for me? Are things getting better for the country? And do I wish to put that at risk?' As we come up to the election, that will become increasingly apparent."

Mr Major last night told a business awards dinner on Teesside that the recovery was being felt across the country. "We really can hope that we are waving goodbye to the North-South divide," he added.

His visit was partly aimed at

exorcising a ghost left by Mar-

garet Thatcher on her visit to Stockton after the 1987 general election when she made her now famous "walk in the wilderness" at a derelict industrial site.

Mr Major said he had visited Stockton to highlight econo-

mic recovery in the North East and the site on which Mrs Thatcher had tiptoed through broken bottles and long grass was now occupied by a university, 500 homes, a hotel, a watersports centre, and the local

commercial radio station, TFM, on which he did a half-hour phone-in show.

Today Mr Major will issue a rallying cry to Tory supporters at a Birmingham rally. He will try to convince hard-pressed

party activists in the Midlands, where the marginal seats could hold the key to the election result, that they can still win.

The Prime Minister will also announce a major development of education policy, aimed at putting Labour on the defensive over grammar schools and nursery vouchers. It could herald the introduction of vouchers for secondary education.

His prime aim yesterday appeared to be to rally support among the faithful, as the guest at a private party luncheon organised by the millionaire financier, Sir John Hall, who was knighted by Margaret Thatcher, at his private estate in North Cleveland, Sir John, the charismatic chairman of Newcastle United Football Club, is also an important backer of the Conservative

Party. But party officials insisted that the meeting for 200 invited voluntary workers was not a fund-raising event.

The Prime Minister rejected as "the politics of abuse rather than reality", the accusation by Tony Blair that Mr Major was the prisoner of the Tory right on the single European currency.

"Sometimes you have to stand out against other people in the European Union in the British interest," Mr Major said. And he recalled that Mrs Thatcher was isolated when she won Britain's rebate – further evidence that her ghosts have not been laid.

There has been speculation that Mr Major could announce the date for the election today and government departments have been asked to clear the decks of legislation by the end

of March. For example, the National Health Service Primary Care Bill – agreement having been reached with the British Medical Association – is being accelerated for royal assent by the end of next month.

But Mr Major is likely to keep Mr Blair guessing a little longer although it appears clear he has 1 May in his sights. The Prime Minister toured a re-training centre on Teesside but close friends say he will not need re-training if he loses his job in May – he is content to go back to the City in the knowledge that he could not be blamed for defeat.

And he had advice for anyone wanting his job in his radio interview. He said being prime minister meant you had to be able to go without sleep, another habit belonging to Baroness Thatcher, as she is now.



Ready to go: John and Norma Major read breakfast menus on a train at King's Cross station, London, yesterday before travelling to the North East

Government's position.

Mr Blair said that if that policy was being changed, then the Prime Minister "should split it out... But he should not carry on having it both ways, two faces, one in either direction. Inconsistent, unreliable, untrustworthy".

The image of a two-faced Mr Major is expected to be the theme of Labour's latest pre-election poster campaign, to be launched by deputy leader, John Prescott, in Birmingham today.

But Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrats' leader, said last night: "The Conservative and Labour parties both treat the single currency like an embarrassing relative no one wants to mention... We believe that being part of a successful single currency would give Britain lower interest rates and lower inflation, and staying out would give Britain less inward investment and less influence."

## Blair and Heseltine united over Europe

**Anthony Bevins**  
Political Editor

Michael Heseltine and Tony Blair yesterday united in warning against the dangers of Britain pulling out of the European Union.

The deputy Prime Minister told a BBC Radio 5 phone-in: "I know people find this difficult to believe, but I know we are gaining from the European partnership, and I know that to be outside it would be a disaster. You say rightly the economy is doing very well but I tell you, if we were in fact to prejudice Britain's position in Europe, you would find a very difficult situation."

The Labour leader said at a *What the Papers* award ceremony, in London: "The Labour Party is clear that we do not want to leave the EU. Formally, the Tory party agree. It is increasingly unclear, however,

whether that will hold."

Mr Heseltine's acknowledgement of the risks involved in withdrawal suggests a growing fear on the Tory left that the Euro-sceptics are setting the pace of policy. But as with Lord Howe's warning on Thursday – that the former deputy Prime Minister could not support a party that was "hostile" to the principle of a single currency – Mr Heseltine appeared to be warning that he is not going to surrender without a bitter fight.

Mr Blair said: "They are irreversibly divided on Europe because a significant part of the Tory party want to withdraw from the EU. No serious part of the Labour Party wants to withdraw."

On the single currency, the Labour leader said the options had to remain open for a "hard-headed assessment of Britain's national interest"; something that was also supposed to be the

## Labour spreads net with broad appeal

**Anthony Bevins**

Nurses were yesterday offered a new Labour package to improve job security, working flexibility, and pay bargaining.

But Chris Smith, Labour's health spokesman, told a *Nursing Times* conference in Westminster that the party's commitment to the 350,000 NHS nurses was also a commitment to patients.

That broadened appeal was also underlined by Tony Blair, when he was asked about a new Age Concern campaign to help the country's 10 million pensioners.

Launching the campaign, Sally Greenhous, director general of Age Concern England, said: "All the political parties must grasp the nettle of the key issues affecting many older people – low income, paying for care, discrimination in health services to name but a few – and help ensure a dignified and enjoyable retirement."

The message of the campaign is "Age counts. Ten million older voters could make the difference."

But the Labour leader com-

"They care deeply about keeping inflation down, which we will do, about rebuilding our NHS as an NHS, which we will do, and about dealing with crime."

Echoing that theme, Mr Smith said: "By listening to the needs of nurses, by offering them the support and encouragement they deserve, and by allowing them to carry out the job for which they are trained, we will restore their morale and ensure that patients have the best care available."

Mr Smith's "new deal" for nurses included: a replacement of the "current shambles" of enforced local pay negotiation with a national system of bargaining that linked fairness and local flexibility; and action to tackle the high turnover rate of nurses – up from 13 per cent to 22 per cent in the three years to 1995-96.

Gerald Malone, the Health Minister, responded: "Mr Smith is very concerned, but short on commitment. He still refuses to match the Government's pledge of real increases in health spending throughout the next five years."



Never mind your 2 seat, super-charged, turbo thruster. What if you've already been there, done that, got the kids to prove it? The 6 seat, 5 door Daihatsu HiJet MPV could be the answer. As well as bags of space for the family there's also plenty of space for bags. Not to mention twin sun roofs, a super-frugal engine and a 3 year/60,000 mile warranty. And all in a compact little body with the minuscule price of just £8,800 on the road. (Who says size is important?) For more information call us on 0800 521 700. THE HIET MPV.

DAIHATSU



## politics

# Major plays long game for economy to rescue the Tories' poll support

**Colin Brown**  
Chief Political Correspondent

A clear hint that John Major intends to play it long to give economic recovery a chance to rescue Conservative support was given yesterday by the Prime Minister in an electioneering tour in the North East.

Talking up the recovery, Mr Major said it was becoming increasingly understood by people that Britain was outperforming other European countries, including France and Germany, and the evidence of the up-turn was in the high street.

"How soon that translates itself into votes we will have to wait and see," Mr Major said.

"I think the British people will see the prospects opening up. I don't think they will want to throw them away."

He shrugged off suggestions

that the Government would be unable to close the gap between the recovery and its low showing in the opinion polls. "I have always thought you would see the full recovery of support when people actually have an election date, and people see a clear-cut decision before them."

"It is at that stage people will sit back and think, 'Are things getting better for me? Are things getting better for the country? And do I wish to put that at risk?' As we come up to the election, that will become increasingly apparent."

Mr Major last night told a business awards dinner on Teesside that the recovery was being felt across the country.

"We really can hope that we are waving goodbye to the North-South divide," he added.

His visit was partly aimed at

exorcising a ghost left by Mar-

garet Thatcher on her visit to Stockton after the 1987 general election when she made her now famous "walk in the wilderness" at a derelict industrial site.

Mr Major said he had visited Stockton to highlight economic recovery in the North East and the site on which Mrs Thatcher had trodden through broken bottles and long grass was now occupied by a university, 500 homes, a hotel, a watersports centre, and the local

commercial radio station, TFM, on which he did a half-hour phone-in show.

Today Mr Major will issue a rallying cry to Tory supporters at a Birmingham rally. He will try to convince hard-pressed

party activists in the Midlands, where the marginal seats could hold the key to the election result, that they can still win.

The Prime Minister will also announce a major development of education policy, aimed at putting Labour on the defensive over grammar schools and nursery vouchers. It could herald the introduction of vouchers for secondary education.

His prime aim yesterday appeared to be to rally support among the faithful, as the guest at a private party luncheon organised by the millionaire financier, Sir John Hall, who was knighted by Margaret Thatcher, at his private estate in North Cleveland. Sir John, the charismatic chairman of Newcastle United Football Club, is also an important backer of the Conservative

party but party officials insisted that the meeting for 200 invited voluntary workers was not a fund-raising event.

The Prime Minister rejected as "the politics of abuse rather than reality", the accusation by Tony Blair that Mr Major was the prisoner of the Tory right on the single European currency.

"Sometimes you have to stand out against other people in the European Union in the British interest," Mr Major said. And he recalled that Mrs Thatcher was isolated when she won Britain's rebate - further evidence that her ghosts have not been laid.

There has been speculation that Mr Major could announce the date for the election today and government departments have been asked to clear the decks of legislation by the end

of March. For example, the National Health Service Primary Care Bill - agreement having been reached with the British Medical Association - is being accelerated for royal assent by the end of next month.

But Mr Major is likely to keep Mr Blair guessing a little longer although it appears clear he has 1 May in his sights. The Prime Minister toured a re-training centre on Teesside but close friends say he will not need re-training if he loses his job in May - he is content to go back to the City in the knowledge that he could not be blamed for defeat.

And he had advice for anyone wanting his job in his radio interview. He said being prime minister meant you had to be able to go without sleep, another habit belonging to Baroness Thatcher, as she is now.

Ready to go: John and Norma Major read breakfast menus on a train at King's Cross station, London, yesterday before travelling to the North East

Photograph: Peter Macdiarmid

# One makes you look virile. The other proves it.



Never mind your 2 seat, super-charged, turbo thruster. What if you've already been there, done that, got the kids to prove it? The 6 seat, 5 door Daihatsu Hijet MPV could be the answer. As well as bags of space for the family there's also plenty of space for bags. Not to mention twin sun roofs, a super-frugal engine and a 3 year/60,000 mile warranty. And all in a compact little body with the minuscule price of just £8,800 on the road. (Who says size is important?) For more information call us on 0800 521 700. THE HIJET MPV.

NO-NONSENSE VEHICLES.

For more information on the Daihatsu Hijet MPV call 0800 521 700, or send this coupon to Daihatsu Information Services, FREEPOST 506, Sandbach, Cheshire CW13 9BR.  
NAME \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
POSTCODE \_\_\_\_\_ TEL \_\_\_\_\_ TICK IF UNDER 16 \_\_\_\_\_ CURRENT VEHICLE \_\_\_\_\_ MODEL \_\_\_\_\_ YEAR \_\_\_\_\_ 12/97

PRICE CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS. EXCL. VAT, DELIVERY, INSURANCE, TAX & DELIVERY NUMBER PLATE. SHOT TORQUE MILEAGE, ROAD TAX & LICENCE. EACH VEHICLE OF THIS MODEL IS A PASSENGER CONVERSION OF A HIJET REGISTERED AS A COMMERCIAL VEHICLE.

## Blair and Heseltine united over Europe

**Anthony Bevins**  
Political Editor

Michael Heseltine and Tony Blair yesterday united in warning against the dangers of Britain pulling out of the European Union.

The deputy Prime Minister told a BBC Radio 5 phone-in: "I know people find this difficult to believe, but I know we are gaining from the European partnership, and I know that to be outside it would be a disaster. You say rightly the economy is doing very well but I tell you, if we were in fact to prejudice Britain's position in Europe, you would find a very different situation."

The Labour leader said at a *What the Papers Say* award ceremony, in London: "The Labour Party is clear that we do not want to leave the EU. Formally, the Tory party agree. It is increasingly unclear, however,

whether that will hold."

Mr Heseltine's acknowledgement of the risks involved in withdrawal suggests a growing fear on the Tory left that the Euro-sceptics are setting the pace of policy. But as with Lord Howe's warning on Thursday that the former deputy Prime Minister could not support a party that was "hostile" to the principle of a single currency - Mr Heseltine appeared to be warning that he is not going to surrender without a bitter fight.

Mr Blair said: "They are irreversibly divided on Europe because a significant part of the Tory party want to withdraw from the EU. No serious part of the Labour Party wants to withdraw."

On the single currency, the Labour leader said the options had to remain open for a "hard-headed assessment of Britain's national interest"; something that was also supposed to be the

Government's position.

Mr Blair said that if that policy was being changed, then the Prime Minister "should spit it out ... But he should not carry on having it both ways, two faces, one in either direction. Inconsistent, unreliable, untrustworthy".

The image of a two-faced Mr Blair is expected to be the theme of Labour's latest pre-election poster campaign, to be launched by deputy leader, John Prescott, in Birmingham today.

But Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrats' leader, said last night: "The Conservative and Labour parties both treat the single currency like an embarrassing relative no one wants to mention ... We believe that being part of a successful single currency would give Britain lower interest rates and lower inflation, and staying out would give Britain less inward investment and less influence."

## Labour spreads net with broad appeal

**Anthony Bevins**

Nurses were yesterday offered a new Labour package to improve job security, working flexibility, and pay bargaining.

But Chris Smith, Labour's health spokesman, told a *Nursing Times* conference in Westminster that the party's commitment to the 350,000 NHS nurses was also a commitment to patients.

That broadened appeal was also underlined by Tony Blair, when he was asked about a new Age Concern campaign to help the country's 10 million pensioners.

Launching the campaign, Sally Greenross, director general of Age Concern England, said: "All the political parties must grasp the nettle of the key issues affecting many older people - low income, paying for care, discrimination in health services to name but a few - and help ensure a dignified and enjoyable retirement."

The message of the campaign is: "Age counts. Ten million older voters could make the difference."

But the Labour leader com-

"They care deeply about keeping inflation down, which we will do, about rebuilding our NHS as an NHS, which we will do, and about dealing with crime."

Echoing that theme, Mr Smith said: "By listening to the needs of nurses, by offering them the support and encouragement they deserve, and by allowing them to carry out the job for which they are trained, we will restore their morale and ensure that patients have the best care available."

Mr Smith's "new deal" for nurses included a replacement of the "current shambles" of enforced local pay negotiation with a national system of bargaining that linked fairness and local flexibility; and action to tackle the high turnover rate of nurses - up from 13 per cent to 22 per cent in the three years to 1995-96.

Gerald Malone, the Health Minister, responded: "Mr Smith is long on concern, but short on commitment. He still refuses to match the Government's pledge of real increases in health spending throughout the next five years."



Chris Smith: 'Restoring nurses' morale will benefit patients'

mented later: "It is not a question of pensioners being an important part of the electorate. They are an important part of the country, and we intend to govern for the benefit of the whole country."

He added: "We have put forward proposals to protect the basic pension, to offer greater protection to people with private pensions, to cut VAT on fuel, which is enormously important to pensioners. But you must also remember pensioners are ordinary citizens living in our community."

But the Labour leader com-

مزايا من الاداء

"...big benefits in  
ride and handling..."

"...smooth, crisp  
and punchy..."

"...impressive  
acceleration..."

"...bang up to date  
electronically..."

"...significantly faster..."

"...a muted snarl..."



# DUCT ALL

ATE SWIRL 1000  
ATE SPREAD 3250  
ATE SPREAD 2002

## BE HONEST, DOES THIS SOUND LIKE A DIESEL?

The sluggish acceleration. The dreaded engine rattle. The lack of refinement. Where are these standard features of any diesel to be found on the Rover 400? Nowhere, according to Diesel Car Magazine's review. Instead they found all the usual Rover comforts, plus rattling good performance. Without the rattling, of course. Call 0345 186 186, or contact your local Rover dealer, for a test drive.



## international

# Ghosts of battles past return to torment the Russian bear

**Christopher Bellamy**  
Defence Correspondent

At the start of Sergey Eisenstein's epic 1938 film *Alexander Nevsky*, one of the prince's subjects asks why he doesn't do something to shake off the yoke of the Mongol overlords, to whom the Russian princes, overrun in 1238, paid tribute. "We will deal with them in time", he says. "But first, we have a greater enemy to defeat. The *Nemtsy* [Germans]."

Prince Alexander meant invaders from the west - the Swedes, whom he defeated in 1240, and the Teutonic knights, against whom he fought the great battle on the ice of the river Neva - hence his title - in 1242. Eisenstein's film was made as a warning and as preparation for impending war against Germany. But that scene provided a neat summary of a very Russian preoccupation: the fear of encirclement, and of war against two enemies - or three, or four - at once.

That recurring fear has resurfaced as the Russian bear puts up a steel-shod paw against

Nato enlargement. When so encircled, Russia always rates the West as its most formidable opponent.

In October, the former national security adviser, Alexander Lebed, met General Klaus Naumann, the Chairman of Nato's Military Committee, and told him Russia had security concerns in three areas. The first was the West, by which he meant Nato, and potential Nato members - especially Poland and Ukraine, which has no intention of joining Nato. The second was the south-west - the Middle East, and the third was the south - Iran and Afghanistan. He did not mention China specifically, but the East has been a frequent concern and may become one again. And bearing in mind that any strategic attack by the United States, with bombers or missiles, could come over the North Pole, Russia feels surrounded.

The country's darkest hours were in the Middle Ages and in 1918-1920. In the 13th century the Russian principalities were attacked by Danes, Swedes, Poles, Germans and Hungarians



from the west and by Mongols from the east. After the Russian revolution of 1917, the area controlled by the Bolshevik government shrank to much the same area as the medieval principality of Muscovy. Germans occupied Ukraine; the British, French and Americans attacked in the north; and the British also in the south, where the anti-revolutionary White Guards were concentrated, and the Japanese landed in the Far East. These attacks were uncoordinated, inept, and soon pushed back.

The memory of these comparatively recent foreign interventions is raw, and relevant to modern Russians. Most relevant of all the surprise attack by Germany - until 22 June 1941 a formal ally of the Soviet Union - which, in six months, overran an area equivalent to that conquered by Alexander the Great. Anyone who doubts that relevance should remember the Russian response when it was proposed to put Russian officers in Nato headquarters as a confidence-building measure. "We had officers in the Wehrmacht headquarters in 1941,"

said a Russian colonel. "Look where that got us."

At its greatest extent, the Russian or Soviet Empire occupied about a sixth of the earth's land surface. Until 1867, the Russian empire traversed three continents and went more than half way round the world - Alaska, sold to the US for a song, was Russian. Russia itself

still covers one eighth of the land surface of the world. It also has about 12,000 nuclear warheads.

Why should such a country feel encircled? Since the Soviet break-up, Russian intellectuals have resurrected Sir Halford Mackinder's idea of the "heartland", and the historian's famous proposition that control

of eastern Europe was crucial to control of the heartland. Furthermore, "those who rule the Heartland dominate the World Island (Eurasia); those who rule the World Island dominate the world". But that very central position makes Russia vulnerable to isolation by oceanic powers who want to seize the rim of the world island.

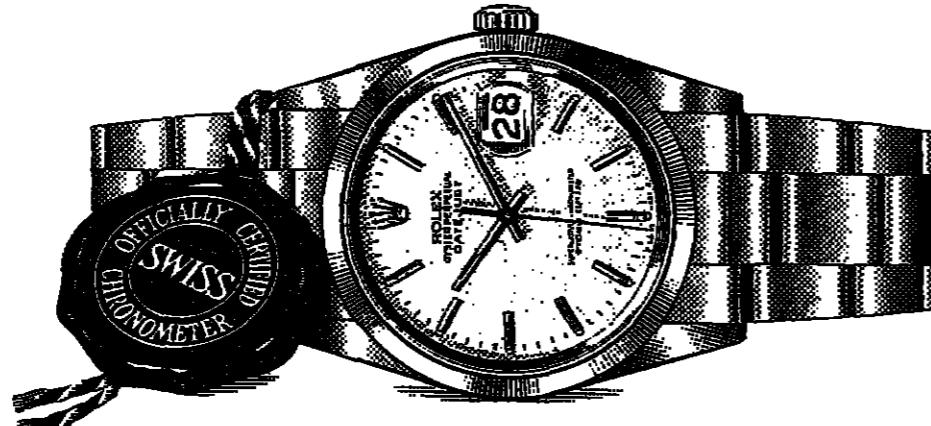
Russia's traditional response to encirclement has been to divide potential enemies, and to push them further away. The main force behind the development of the Soviet navy from the 1960s seems to have been that having pushed the "enemy" as far away as it could on land, the Soviets then had to push it further still. As a large part of the "threat" came from US aircraft carriers and US, British and French ballistic-missile firing submarines, they wanted to push that further away, too.

Madeleine Albright, the new US secretary of state, is trying to reassure the Russians that Nato enlargement is not a threat. Given the history of the past 750 years, she has a hard

**GOLDSMITHS:**  
Aberdeen · Bath  
Brighton · Canterbury  
Chelmsford · Cheltenham  
Chester · Esher  
Cateshead · Guildford  
Harrogate · Leicester  
Llandudno  
London Bishopsgate  
Nottingham · Torquay  
**NORTHERN GOLDSMITHS:**  
Newcastle-upon-Tyne  
**WALKER & HALL:**  
Altrincham · Cardiff  
Dudley · Ilford  
Leicester · Lincoln  
Middlesbrough  
Newcastle-upon-Tyne  
Nottingham · Oxford  
Sheffield · Stirling  
Thurrock · Woking  
**ALFRED CHILCOTT & CO:**  
Bristol  
**GREENWOOD JEWELLERS:**  
Leeds  
**GEO ATTENBOROUGH:**  
London  
**BRACHER & SYDENHAM:**  
Reading  
**GEO FARRER LIMITED:**  
Tunbridge Wells  
**FATTORINI & SONS:**  
Bradford · Sheffield  
**ROBINSON:**  
Shrewsbury  
**MUNSEY & CO:**  
Cambridge  
**STRADLINGS:**  
Cirencester  
**J A HASKELL:**  
Ipswich

**There are only so many official Rolex jewellers.**

**How come so many of them are ours?**



Rolex are as uncompromising in their selection of Official Rolex Jewellers as they are in the manufacture of the timepieces themselves.

With our huge nationwide chain including Walker & Hall, the Goldsmiths Group is probably the country's leading chain of quality jewellers.

It all began in 1919, when Goldsmiths were appointed as Britain's first Rolex jewellers.

Today, every Goldsmiths jeweller still jealously

guards his reputation for outstanding quality and service. Rolex is available at the branches listed above. Only so many jewellers will ever earn the right to sell a Rolex.

And only so many people will ever own one.

You perhaps?



**GOLDSMITHS WALKER & HALL**

The first officially appointed Rolex stockists in the UK.

Illustrated Rolex Oyster Perpetual Datejust Chronometer in stainless steel £1,810. Rolex Oyster prices start at £1,300. For more information about your local jeweller, please call 0800 229 731.

## Albright thaws out the Moscow chill

**Phil Reeves**  
Moscow

The US Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, flew out of Moscow last night after striking up a surprisingly amicable relationship with the Russians without making much progress in overcoming their fierce objections to the expansion of Nato.

As she left for the Asian leg of her high-speed nine-capital tour, Russia continued to hold out for a legally-binding charter governing its relationship with an enlarged Alliance, including a promise that no nuclear weapons will be stationed on the soil of new members.

Although Mrs Albright spoke of making "important progress" in her crucial first meeting as US Secretary of State with the Russian Foreign Minister, Yevgeny Primakov, it was clear that no agreement had been reached on a number of key is-

sues during her 24-hour trip.

Although Mr Primakov complimented the talks as "fruitful", he said that Russia was "still negatively disposed" to Nato's growth, although it was "doing everything we can conceivably think of in order to minimise the negative consequences."

However, the arrival of the Albright express in Moscow produced little of the fury that has recently emanated out of Moscow with every mention of Nato's plans to move towards Russia's borders, an issue that many believe threatens stability in Russia. Significantly, a generally amicable relationship appears to have grown up between Ms Albright and Mr Primakov - in contrast to the chill that hung over his dealings with Warren Christopher, her predecessor.

Although Nato has said it will go ahead with its expansion plans without an agreement with Russia, it would prefer to

strike an accord before the Madrid summit in July, when it will start the process of admitting new members - probably the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland.

This will be no easy task. Although Russia can do little to stop Nato expansion, it wants to extract the best terms possible. Mr Primakov yesterday reiterated Moscow's demand that any charter with Nato should be ratified by the Alliance's member parliaments, and should include a no-nukes pledge. Ms Albright confirmed the fact that there is no intention to deploy nuclear weapons on the territory of the countries in Central and East Europe. We feel that that should be reflected in the document," he said.

But Nato is not willing to place itself in a position where it can never deploy nuclear weapons in the region in future. And that, say Russians, means that Cold War sentiments live on.

## PRODUCT RECALL

**TESCO CHOCOLATE SWIRL 400g**  
**TESCO CHOCOLATE SPREAD 325g**  
**TESCO CHOCOLATE SPREAD 200g**

Tesco has identified a contamination problem with the above products.

Some Tesco Chocolate Spreads may have traces of nut due to a cross contamination at our manufacturers.

As a precaution, Tesco Chocolate Spreads have been withdrawn from sale.

Customers who have bought Tesco Chocolate Spreads and are concerned that they, or members of their family, may be allergic to nuts are requested to return the product to any Tesco store where a full refund will be given.

Our manufacturers have reviewed their procedures and undertaken a full investigation.

Tesco apologises for the inconvenience this may cause and assures customers of our care and commitment to the highest standards of food safety and quality.

Free customer helpline  
0800 505555

**TESCO**

هذا من الأصل







WHO KILLED CARL BRIDGEWATER?

# He may be free, but so is the real killer

With the vindication of the Bridgewater Three, attention is focused on a former suspect

**Jason Bennett**  
Crime Correspondent

The release of the three men falsely convicted of Carl Bridgewater's murder raises one obvious question: who did kill the 13-year-old newspaper delivery boy.

It also raises the issue of responsibility - who caused three men to spend 18 years in jail for a crime they did not commit and a fourth man to die in prison while serving a 10-year stretch.

The case appears to be a classic example of what Sir Paul Condon, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, condemned in 1993 as "noble cause"

corruption in which small group of detectives were prepared to "massage the evidence" and "bend the rules".

Others might be more blunt and say "make up the evidence to fit the crime".

With the vindication of the Bridgewater Three, attention has now turned to a former suspect called Hubert Spencer.

At one stage Spencer was a key suspect with several strong links to the newspaper boy's death.

Witnesses recalled seeing a blue Vauxhall Viva car driven into Yew Tree Farm, Wordsley, Shropshire, shortly before Carl's murder in September 1978 by a man in a dark blue

uniform. Police inquiries discovered that Spencer, an ambulance liaison officer who lived locally, owned such a car and uniform - a rare combination.

At first Spencer did not tell detectives that he knew Yew Tree Farm, its owners and Carl, and that he was interested in collecting antiques - which was thought to be the motive for the original burglary. A hospital log which would confirm his movements is missing although he had an alibi witness - Barbara Rusbeld who worked with him at the local Corbett hospital.

Spencer, now 56, also used to shoot at the farm.

Shortly after the killing he found a piece of cardboard, which cast suspicions of other people in the ambulance service, but this was later dismissed as a "red herring".

Police discovered by the time of their second interview with Spencer that from 1969 to 1974 he had lived in the same street as Carl, who used to play with his daughter.

Further police inquiries suddenly stopped when three West Midlands police officers from Number 4 Regional Crime Squad, who were assisting Staffordshire police in the murder inquiry, achieved the supposed "breakthrough" from the alleged confessions. In the ap-

parent desire to get a result, the police appeared to have ignored other possible leads, however promising.

But an even more disturbing event provided a further possible link between Spencer and the Bridgewater case a few weeks after the conviction of the four men. During a Christmas party half a mile from Yew Tree Farm Spencer loaded a shotgun and shot his friend Hubert Wilkes, 70, through the head as he sat on a sofa. He then attacked and shot at his wife and Wilkes's daughter.

At his trial Spencer was never able to explain what had happened. He was convicted of the

Wilkes murder in July 1980 and sentenced to life imprisonment. At the first appeal hearing of the Bridgewater case in 1989, the judges ruled that they had "no doubt" whatever but that Hubert Spencer had nothing whatever to do with the killing of Carl Bridgewater.

He was released on life licence in 1994 after serving 14 years, remarried and moved to the small Lincolnshire village of Bicker, 10 miles from Boston.

He said yesterday: "It's incredible they are being released. I expect more pressure will be put on me but my conscience is clear, I am not perturbed.

"If the Hickeys have not

done it, it is the right decision to let them out. When people get off on appeal, it always leaves a case unsettled. I'm just surprised that the Crown has dropped the case."

He later told reporters he would only speak to them for money and that he had already sold his story. "I've been offered £100 a word by someone else. The Hickey family have made a fortune so you lot can start coughing up. Can you give me a hundred quid now?"

Spencer may now face fresh questioning from Merseyside police who are continuing a long-running investigation into the case.



Taste of freedom: Michael Hickey kissing the ground outside the High Court yesterday and Hubert Spencer (below, right), a suspect in the case. Photograph: Kevin Larmour

# DIXONS

# SALE

MUST END THIS WEEKEND  
SAVE UP TO 50%

## PHILIPS TD 9571 DIGITAL CORDLESS PHONE

- Outstanding call quality with no eavesdropping.
  - 10 hours talktime/40 hours standby time.
  - 20 alphanumeric memories.
  - 300 metre range.
  - Paging facility between base and handset.
  - Last number redial.
- Was £199.99.



SAVE  
£20  
DIGITALLY  
ENHANCED  
CORDLESS  
TECHNOLOGY

**£179.99**

## BT FREESTYLE 1100 CORDLESS PHONE WITH DIGITAL ANSWERING MACHINE

- Digital answering machine - no need for tape.
- 10 number memory.
- Up to 100 metre range.
- Cell screening and message counter.
- Time and date stamp.



Dixons  
Deal  
£129.99

**DIXONS**  
**SALE** MUST END THIS WEEKEND

## CHECK MANAGERS SPECIALS IN-STORE

• PCs • PERSONAL STEREOS • CAMERAS

DIXONS  
ONE VOUCHER ENTITLES YOU TO AN EXTRA

£50 OFF ALL MANAGERS SPECIALS OVER £100

INCLUDING CLEARANCE, EXCHANGE AND DISPLAY STOCKS. ALL FULLY GUARANTEED

One voucher per purchase not for use with other offers. Offer ends Monday 24th February 1997. Branches see us only.

DISCOUNT USING CODE D03 OR 11

TELEPHONES FROM £10

SATISH 251 TELEPHONE

• Illuminated dial buttons.

• Last number redial.

• Mute button.

Was £19.99.

£9.99 HALF PRICE

BT RELATE 130 BLUE TELEPHONE

• 10 memories.

• On hook dialling.

• Finger volume.

Was £24.99.

£19.99 HALF PRICE

MATSUI SPEAKERPHONE 100

• 10 number memory.

• Hands free speaker. VOUCHER PRICE

In-store Price £39.99

£24.99

CORDLESS PHONES

BINATONE AIRLINK 300

CORDLESS PHONE WITH ANSWER MACHINE

• Digital auto-selecting.

• 8 number memory.

• Fully digital answer machine.

Was £29.99.

£99.99 SAVINGS £20

PHILIPS XALIO DECT DIGITAL CORDLESS PHONE

• Digital quality for outstanding clarity and security.

• Up to 200 hours power save standby time.

Was £229.99.

£199.99 SAVINGS £30

ANSWERING MACHINES

III Betacomm SOLO ANSWER MACHINE

• Remote access.

• One button operation.

Was £29.99.

£24.99 SAVINGS £5

SOUTHWESTERN BELL FA3000

TELEPHONE ANSWER MACHINE

• Call monitoring.

• Remote access.

• Last number redial.

Was £34.99.

£29.99 SAVINGS £5

## Fake signature led to dead man's sentence

**Patricia Wynn Davies**

Patrick Molloy, who died without ever having an appeal, had consistently insisted that police had shown him a confession under caution on which he read Vincent Hickey's name.

Michael Mansfield QC told the Appeal Court yesterday that Mr Molloy had told his solicitors at the first opportunity that that was what had happened at Wombourne police station, near Wolverhampton.

But the defence was never developed at the trial and the Hickey statement, which Mr Molloy was shown by police was never produced in court.

Vincent Hickey had sought to put the three others in the firing line in a bid to secure immunity from prosecution when he was arrested over a bungalow robbery at another farmhouse, Chapel Farm, close to the Yew Tree Farm, the scene of the murder. But, said Jeremy Roberts QC, counsel for the Crown, "the important point is that all his ad-

missions were verbal. He never made a written statement, although he offered to make one several times."

But it was the new scientific evidence, shown to the Crown for the first time on Monday of last week, that led to freedom for the three men yesterday. Mr Roberts said: "On this one ground alone, we have come to the conclusion that we cannot properly resist the arguments put forward by the appellants."

The new tests on the 19 year old documents were only possible because an exhibit label stapled to Mr Molloy's confession, possibly by the very officers involved in the fabrication, prevented incriminating evidence from fading or being worn away over time.

The signature in the name of

Vincent Hickey was quite different from his real signatures.

He said: "Vincent Hicki-

ey has been waiting for his day in court for 18 years. His mother and brothers and sisters are in court and they resent what is being done as a damage limitation exercise."

Perils of new life outside jail



Reunited: Ann Skett and Vincent Hickey yesterday

**Glenda Cooper**  
Social Affairs Correspondent

The final irony in the case of the Bridgewater Three is that they might have had a far better chance of a new life if they had committed a crime. As Michael and Vincent Hickey and James Robinson try to come to terms with the last 18 years, they will receive none of the help or rehabilitation that convicted criminals could expect.

Psychologists and probation officers say the effect on those wrongfully convicted can be compared to hostages held in the Middle East. Many face severe depression and post-traumatic stress disorder. "No amount of compensation will pay for what they've been through," said David Boag, a chartered forensic psychologist who has worked in prisons for nearly 30 years. "This would devastate anybody. It is likely to have very negative effects on their life for a very long time."

"At the moment they will be very excited about being released, but after a while they could be overwhelmed by feelings of depression."

People who were wrongfully held often did suffer post-traumatic stress disorder. "They keep going over and over the case. They can't get shot of it. They keep reliving the experience."

He said there were four main stages people went through: "Sometimes they go into denial and can't believe it's happened - that they have actually been released. Then there is anger and resentment that it happened in the first place. After that they may become emotionally drained and depressed. They feel like they are disappearing down the black hole. Then there is the final adjustment and acceptance but you don't know how long it can take."

It is a familiar tale to previous victims of injustice. A year after his release Paddy Hill, one of the Birmingham Six, said in a newspaper interview: "Sometimes I feel like bursting into tears,

or I have just to walk away ... There are times when I wish I was back in jail."

In the cases of the Guildford Four, they found different ways of adjusting. While Gerard Conlon achieved fame and money through his best-selling autobiography, *In the Name of the Father*, and Paul Hill married into the Kennedy clan, the other two, Patrick Armstrong and Carole Richardson, have quietly faded into obscurity.

In purely practical terms the Bridgewater Three will have to adjust to a very different world to the one they left in 1979. Since then the Cold War has ended, the Berlin Wall has come down, Communism has collapsed in Central and Eastern Europe and Nelson Mandela has been released. In day-to-day life back in 1979, simple electronic calculators were prized pieces of advanced technology, office workers used typewriters and the equivalents of desk-top PCs took up small rooms. Remote controls for televisions were still a thing of the future as were hole-in-the-wall cash dispensers. "There have been major changes in society," said Dr Gisli Gudjonsson, reader in forensic psychology at the University of London. "They will not be used to the increased traffic or the differences in technology. They may find it terrifying to get on a bus or a train or the Tube. And if people are let out suddenly they have no opportunity to adjust."

This is the major problem psychologists agree that the Bridgewater Three face. They will not have had any preparation which long-term prisoners normally receive and they will not be supervised by the probation service on their release. For the convicted criminal, the probation service must make sure there is accommodation arranged, that prisoners are signed on at social security and are connected to employment services. With no such service for the wrongfully convicted, they could even have problems even with tasks such as opening a bank account.

# Gummer – a green voice in a grey wilderness

**S**omething strange is going on. A Cabinet minister has been running around for three years saying the sky is falling, and nobody pays a blind bit of notice. He was at it again this week. "The sea is rising. The world is heating up. Governments of the world have to do something." It was John Gummer, explaining that humankind has changed and is changing the world's climate. Oh, him, you might say. Indeed, the very same politician who called on Wednesday for planning committees to let rich people build "exceptional" new stately homes in open countryside. But do not let that put you off. On climate change, he is right and should be taken seriously.

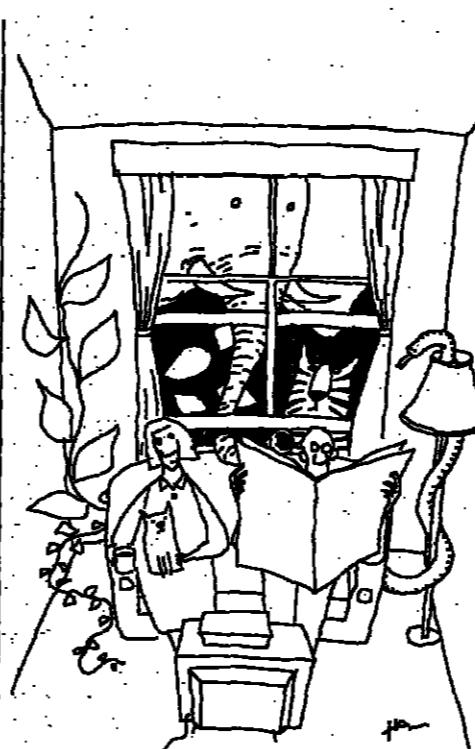
In 20 years' time, the British climate is almost certain to be slightly but significantly warmer than now. Mr Gummer warned that different crops will be grown and several animal species will be driven northwards into Scotland or extinction. It is remarkable to hear a government minister speaking in such definite and apocalyptic terms, and perhaps it is partly because he sounds so unlike our expectations of a politician that we do not pay enough attention to what he says.

He has been saying it for some time. At a conference in Geneva six months ago, he compared the lack of international action on global warming to the failure of the League of Nations to prevent the Second World War. We are so impressed by his green passion that we can forgive him this hyperbole. Climate change is real. We have already burnt so much

fuel that the world's weather will be different in the next century from what it would have been without human intervention. We do not yet know what many of the differences will be. And we do not know how big or damaging the changes will be. Poorer countries could be badly affected, while some countries, including the United States and Russia, could benefit agriculturally from a small amount of warming. But the risks are high and there is a strong argument for mending about with the world's climate as little as possible. This means taking quite dramatic action quickly.

The trouble is that the vast majority of us are in two minds, which operate on different timescales. Sure, we care about the future of the planet, maybe not for ourselves but certainly for our children. And yes, we want to use less petrol, electricity and gas. In our other mind, though, we love our cars and we need our white goods and electric gizmos. This is a dichotomy that is not well recognised by green pressure groups, which fantasise about people being priced out of their cars and onto cleaner public transport. But we love our cars, and with very good reason. Petrol taxes may be going up and up, but it does not matter – we are still going to drive door-to-door in private, comfortable, music-filled bubbles.

And it is this short-term mind that votes. Even when climate change does present itself as a short-term problem, as it did yesterday with the announcement by the water companies of a continuing drought in south-east



England, the political effects are confusing. Because of the hostility generated by water privatisation, global warming is seen as just another excuse on the part of fat cats who do not want to pay to repair their leaky pipes. The charge is unfair, but one is tempted to ask – if Mediterranean countries can supply their population with water, why can't we?

In a sense, it is remarkable that the Government has achieved so much, acting on a 20-year problem in a five-yearly political system. Mr Gummer has been lucky, in that the drive to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases has coincided with Britain's power stations switching from coal to gas, which means we will quite accidentally meet the target for 2000, which was set at Rio de Janeiro in 1992. But he must also take the credit for pursuing many of the right policies. Putting up petrol tax by 5 per cent more than inflation every year may not force us into trains and buses, but eventually it will encourage us to buy cars with smaller engines. "Green taxes" on electricity generation and air transport are more difficult, but even here Mr Gummer has said some of the right things. Jet fuel is presently untaxed, partly because it would need international agreement, and he has asked the international civil aviation body to look at it – "we do not mean look at it and say nothing can be done", he said.

The Labour Party looks as if it would follow the same general course in government – if only because green levies could be the

answer to Gordon Brown's Need To Raise Taxes that dare not speak its name. Almost unnoticed earlier this month, Labour passed up the chance to embarrass the Government in the Commons. Dawn Primarolo, Mr Brown's junior responsible for environmental taxes, did not oppose the doubling of the Tory airport tax in the Finance Bill. This was one issue where the Ulster Unionists could have been tempted to vote with Labour, because Northern Ireland is dependent on air links. But the airport tax is a sound environmental measure; Ms Primarolo, once dubbed Red Dawn as Tony Benn's adjutant, has passed through a Pink phase to become Green Dawn.

The environmentalists constantly bemoan Mr Gummer's isolation in a predominantly "grey" rather than green Government, along with Tony Blair's apparent lack of interest in environmental issues, and Michael Meacher's low status as the opposition's green spokesman. But it is unrealistic to expect much more of either main party, especially in the run-up to an election fought on short-term issues.

The right response to global warming is to tax energy as much as possible and to take a leading role in persuading other countries to impose green taxes too, rather than seeking to undercut each other. Mr Gummer deserves our praise for doing more than could be expected. We'll just have to forgive him the nonsense about stately homes.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Ms S: does the medical profession always know best?

**S**ir: When I was born in 1941, my mother was strongly advised to have a Caesarean (leading article, 19 February, letters, 21 February). She refused, for a variety of reasons that seemed right at the time, and her choice was respected. That refusal resulted in my cerebral palsy.

I wish for my sake that my mother's decision had been overruled. I should add that my mother did also: when Ms S's daughter grows up, she may well be grateful for the decision which gave her life.

ANN DAY  
Leicester

**S**ir: Whatever the facts of the Ms S case, the real issue is not about the woman's rights over those of her unborn child, but the woman's right to make decisions about herself and her unborn child, which includes the right to reject the opinion of the medical professions.

Like everyone else, the medical profession goes through fads and fashions and the Caesarean section is one of the latest fads in obstetrics. Recent research shows that probably only around 6 per cent of Caesarean sections are medically necessary and yet in the United States (where litigation is common) up to 25 per cent of babies are born this way. In a survey carried out for her book *Caesarean Birth in Britain* Professor Wendy Savage asked obstetricians this very question, and 46.8 per cent said that fear of litigation is often a factor in performing sections.

All women know that pregnancy and birth carry risks. Caesarean section carries more risks than

vaginal delivery and yet women are undergoing unnecessary operations because they believe that doctors are giving them advice in their own best interest. Ultimately it is the woman who has to live with the consequences of any decisions made, and therefore it should be she who weighs up the risks involved and makes the final decision. For some women this will always be to trust the professionals. Others will choose to trust their own research or even nature. That should be their decision.

ISOBEL VELLA  
Huddfield, Derbyshire

**S**ir: Seeking the help of a doctor is an act which imposes obligations on the patient, namely to realise that doctors, once a problem is placed in their hands, have duties and obligations as well. Those duties and obligations may well conflict with the wishes of the patient.

It is not good enough simply to criticise the doctors. If Parliament is not happy to leave the Mental Health Act decision to them, then it ought to appoint and pay for a suitable duty judge on site, who can decide, with binding judicial authority, whether treatment is to be administered or not.

Whether putting a lawyer in charge of doctors is a good thing would remain to be seen. My view is that it would be a good thing for the doctors. Patients would not have to suffer any medical professional arrogance, which undoubtedly exists, and the doctor wouldn't have to take the risk for the decision which was made.

ANDREW COHEN  
Guildford, Surrey



The River Duddon, running through the Duddon Valley in the Lake District National Park.  
Photograph: Mirror Syndication

### National parks are a source of wonder

**S**ir: A D Evans argues that it is "nonsense" to say that the National Parks represent the finest countryside in England and Wales (Letters, 20 February).

When the Ramblers' Association and other organisations were campaigning in the 1940s for the creation of national parks, it was never their intention to impose judgements on other people about what does and does not constitute fine countryside. Nor did they have in mind a league table of countryside areas, ranked in order of scenic beauty.

But there was a wide consensus then, as there is now, that places like the Lake District, Snowdonia and Dartmoor have very special qualities which are a source of inspiration and wonder to millions of people, and which should be protected for future generations. That argument found

favour, and the government's response was to do what many other countries have done, before and since, namely to designate those outstanding stretches of countryside as national parks.

But it is true that several beautiful areas which deserved to be designated were left out. Today, a campaign for the creation of further national parks is gaining momentum, with the Highlands of Scotland, and non-upland countryside, such as the South Downs and the New Forest, high on the list.

If A D Evans, or anyone else, would care to develop a case for designating parts of Dorset or Shropshire as national parks, they would readily find a sympathetic audience.

ALAN MATTINGLY  
The Ramblers' Association  
London SW1

### Britain must take action on climate change

**S**ir: Whilst John Gummer must be congratulated for barking at the heels of other countries to move faster in the climate negotiations, he is treading on very thin ice when he implies that the UK's climate record is beyond reproach ("UK meets Rio targets on emissions", 19 February).

Not only has the Government's climate change programme failed to slow growth in energy use but its policies on fossil fuel exploration and production are encouraging the opening up of new areas of oil reserves.

Within weeks of reporting on our climate policies to the UN, the Government plan to approve oil

exploration licences to over 22,000 square miles of the Atlantic to the west of the UK. This is despite the fact that the science tells us that 90 per cent of all oil resources will have to stay in the ground if we are to avoid dangerous climate change.

Until the Government takes action to address the contradiction between its climate commitments and its headlong dash into oil, Mr Gummer's bark will be very much louder than his bite at this year's international climate negotiations.

MATTHEW SPENCER  
Climate campaigner  
Greenpeace  
London N1

### Low pollution risk from supertankers

**S**ir: By stating that "between 30 and 60 per cent of all supertankers cause a devastating pollution incident during their lives" (Letters, 12 February), Professor Disney and his son have totally misrepresented the data in the reference they quote.

The NAS report gives a rate for serious casualties for the whole tanker fleet and not for major oil spills from "supertankers". The rate of major oil spills is much lower, as is indicated by the very next section of the same report.

Our own database shows that, based on the period since 1974, the actual percentage of "supertankers" suffering a spill of over 10,000 tonnes during their lifetime is, at most... between 2 and 4 per cent. Even this is an over-estimate, since the annual incidence of oil spills has dropped significantly since the 1970s.

CATHERINE GREY  
International Tanker Owners Pollution Federation  
London EC3

### Morals of weather

**S**ir: Janet Hind Duff (Letters, 19 February) is weary of hearing television presenters making our future weather sound like a wartime bombing raid. I am similarly weary of the facile adjectives of moral approval or disapproval reminiscent of wartime.

Hot weather is "good", even though many people, like me, thoroughly dislike hot weather. Rain is "bad", even if our reservoirs are three-quarters empty. Is it weather forecasting meant to be an amoral science?

MILES HOWARTH  
Chelmsford,  
Essex

Letters should be addressed to Letters to the Editor, The Independent, One Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL (Fax: 0171-293 2456; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk) and include a daytime telephone number.

Letters may be edited for length and clarity. We regret we are unable to acknowledge unpublished letters.

### Putting children first in adoption

**S**ir: The case of Edita Keranovic (report, 18 February) has once again focused attention on international adoption which, at best, offers a solution for a very small number of children and, at worst, makes large numbers of others vulnerable to exploitation.

Agencies such as the Romanian Orphanage Trust are working to promote long-term, in-country solutions to child care problems in Central and Eastern Europe. We have had considerable success in Romania where we have got over 3,000 children out of orphanages and back into family life, entirely within the framework of Romanian law. Eighty percent of these children have returned to their original or extended family. When this is not possible, there are plenty of Romanian families willing to adopt.

Solutions can be found which prioritise the right and the best interests of children. These rights, and those of their families, should be safeguarded. International adoption should never be the first recourse.

CATHERINE STEVENS  
Head of Fundraising  
The Romanian Orphanage Trust  
London EC4

### Silent cyclists

**S**ir: Ernie Sears and Tom Barrance (Letters, 14 and 18 February) may be barking up the wrong tree. Section 30 of the Countryside Act 1968, whilst conferring upon cyclists the right to ride on a bridleway, requires those doing so to "give way to pedestrians and persons on horseback". What need then of any audible warning, save in emergency if one's brakes have failed.

M L BRAHAM  
Editor  
Rights of Way Law Review  
Cirencester  
Gloucestershire

### How to win the female vote

**S**ir: It is no surprise that three out of four women are dissatisfied with the political parties ("Women's groups set doorstep test for candidates", 19 February).

Research for MORI for the Fawcett Society last year showed that women were less likely than men to trust any of the parties, or the party leaders. A survey by the Women's Communication Centre produced an agenda using women's own words that was very different from the agenda of any of the main political parties. The same survey showed women rejecting a political system that was just about "one party bashing another".

Research by Demos has revealed a deep alienation from politics, particularly among younger women.

What these studies all show is a serious and growing lack of faith among women in our political system. Unfortunately the response from both politicians and the media is often to assume that this is a problem of presentation, not policies.

Discussion about the need to appeal to women voters in the past few months has all too often focused on which of the party leaders is more physically attractive, rather than which has the most attractive policies.

It is time that politicians realised that it will take more than lip service to win women's votes. We want real commitments to policies to improve life for us and our families.

SHELagh DIPLOCK  
Director  
The Fawcett Society  
London EC2

### Reading the genetic tea-leaves

**S**ir: Genetic testing (report, 19 February) is a new, glamorous, unproven technique that may eventually predict, in part, an individual's life expectancy. By contrast diet, cholesterol, exercise and lifestyle are known risk factors for heart disease and stroke. As a doctor undertaking insurance medicals, I am surprised that this information is consistently ignored. By contrast, physical examination still requires me to exclude tertiary syphilis (pupil reactions and knee jerks) and tuberculosis (chest expansion).

I have the impression that insurance companies work in a manner that has, in many cases, more in common with reading tea-leaves than providing fair and accurate premiums for their clients. Genetic testing as it stands and will stand until a generation or more of individuals and families have been studied, adds more tea than science.

ELIZABETH ARMSTRONG  
London SW7

### Keep commerce out of public libraries

**S**ir: The Government's support for "changed patterns of working" for public libraries (report, 20 February) follows a number of experiments in Sunday opening. These experiments have been inspired by a dubious wish to embrace the commercial values of the "market place" rather than by a genuine desire to improve public services. There is a strong element of window dressing in making one or two highly visible improvements to the service while the standard of the service as a whole is declining. In this atmosphere of enforced cuts, public libraries might be well advised to maintain existing services and hours of opening rather than introducing Sunday opening.

GRAHAM HEDGES  
Secretary

Librarians' Christian Fellowship  
Biford, Oxfordshire

QUOTE UNQUOTE

Like so many people I used to think British justice was pretty good but it has flaws. If there were mistakes there must be the opportunity to put them right. It has taken a lot of grief to get this put right – Tim O'Malley, foreman juror at the original Bridgewater Four trial

He was a man of vision and leadership who profoundly changed the life of the Chinese people for the better – Baroness Thatcher, on the death of Deng Xiaoping

Thank you, but I'm sure you meant to say the first openly gay man in the Cabinet – Chris Smith, shadow health secretary, on being introduced to a Commons reception as the first gay man in the Cabinet if Labour wins the election

For the first time since Tony Blair was elected leader, people are beginning to imagine that Labour may yet lose the election, whatever the opinion polls say – Lord Desai, Labour peer

I'm just taking a holiday from the Old Testament to explore unknown territory. I expect that when I come back to the Bible I'll be glad to be home – Dr Alan Smithson, Bishop of Jarow, who is giving up the Bible for Lent and reading the Koran each day

What the modern generation does not understand is that you can love people without going to bed with them – Lord Hutchinson, husband of the late Dame Peggy Ashcroft who has been described in a new book as being promiscuous

Andrew Marr

# the saturday story



Sacked: the massacre at Benin and one of the bronzes taken by the British. There is a campaign for such treasures to be returned  
Painting: Mary Evans Picture Library Bronze: ©British Museum



## The looting of Benin

**Richard Gott reappraises a British outrage against a tiny African fiefdom 100 years ago**

**O**n the half-landing of the main staircase of the British Museum hangs a unique display of 50 bronzes, depicting small groups of African soldiers in military gear. These are just a small percentage of the 900 magnificent bronze sculptures, dating from the 16th century, that were seized from the palace of Benin during a British imperial rampage in west Africa 100 years ago, in February 1897.

The campaign against Benin, a small city-state east of Lagos in what is now southern Nigeria, involved the invasion and destruction of the state, the show trial of its king, the execution of its leading chiefs, the torching of the royal palace, and the burning of innumerable villages. Throughout the fighting, in which "friendly" black troops were put in the forward ranks, British forces were largely protected by the steady use of the Maxim machine gun. These typical atrocities of the British colonial era go unmentioned in the

museum's accompanying wall notice, a continuing indication of Britain's official reluctance to come to terms with the real cost of its imperial past. Now Bernie Grant, the Labour MP, is backing a campaign for the looted treasures held in museums in London and Scotland to be returned to the King of Benin.

The British "punitive expedition" of 1897 did not just result in the seizure of the Benin bronzes. It also helped inspire Joseph Conrad's great novel *Hear of Darkness*. Thanks to the researches of the Swedish writer Sven Lindqvist, we have a detailed knowledge of what Conrad had been reading when he started writing at the end of 1898. In a new book, *Exterminate all the Brutes*, to be published this spring by Granta, Lindqvist uses this fearsome phrase of Conrad's anti-hero Kurtz to illuminate the European origins of genocide.

There will be much celebration this year of the 50th anniversary of Indian independence in 1947. There will be rather fewer memorial meetings recalling the centenary of the empire's heyday, when the British advanced into Africa like Hitler into the Ukraine.

The expedition against Benin was the culmination of several British assaults on the west African kingdoms that now form Nigeria. In 1897, it was the turn of Oba Ovonramwen, king of Benin, to deliver up his land, his people, and his treasures to a British army. The 40-year-old Oba had kept his kingdom isolated and independent, but the British were endlessly plotting to overcome his protectionist zeal. These were the years of the global rubber boom, consequent on John Dunlop's invention of the rubber inner tube. The virgin forests of Benin looked especially attractive.

The man who encompassed the Oba's downfall, Ralph Moor, was effectively the governor of Britain's Niger Coast protectorate. Moor, 36, had long argued that Benin should be opened up to trade, "if nec-

essary by force". Like so many other colonial policemen, he had earlier been an inspector with the Royal Irish Constabulary, stifling rebellion in Ireland. Translated to Africa, he was to become one of Conrad's Kurtz-like figures, bringing "civilisation" to the natives.

Moor's henchmen were equally keen for action. With Moor away in London, his deputy, Lt James Phillips, requested permission from the Foreign Office in December 1896 "to depose and remove the King of Benin". He sent a messenger to the Oba announcing an impending "visit" to Benin. Then, without waiting for a reply, he advanced on the Oba's kingdom – with a small force of 10 British officers, a column of 200 African porters, and a drum-and-fife band.

The Oba treated what seemed like an imminent British invasion as a national emergency. Later in the year, from eyewitnesses, the British pieced together an account of what went on, explaining why the British Museum's Benin bronzes, when first captured, were found to be heavily caked with blood.

"Twelve men were taken", with 12 cows, goats, sheep and chickens. "The animals were killed near the altar, and the blood from them was sprinkled on the big vortices and the brass work." The 12 prisoners, "with gagged ties in their mouths, and held each by four strong men", were led to a well where their heads were cut off.

This was portrayed as a form of human sacrifice, and the British used it to justify the seizure and destruction of Benin. Yet the eyewitness accounts also stressed that

those sacrificed were criminals, already sentenced to death.

Unaware of these fearsome rituals, Lt Phillips pressed on regardless, and in Benin, it was decided that Chief Ologbosheri, the Oba's son-in-law, should be sent out with an armed group to check his advance.

On 4 January, 1897, on the road to Benin, the British force was ambushed by Ologbosheri. Many of the African carriers were captured, and many left dead. Lt Phillips himself and eight British officers were killed. Only two of the whites escaped. It was an unexpected and unusual victory.

C laimes were later made that Lt Phillips' expedition was unarmed. This was not so. The British officers took no machine-guns, but they had revolvers with them. In the African heat, they had been kept locked up in boxes carried by their African porters.

A brutal British response

was not long in coming. The deaths of so many officers provided the opportunity that Ralph Moor had been looking for. "Force" could now be safely used against Benin. A "punitive expedition" was organised under the command of Admiral Sir Harry Rawson, the commander-in-chief at Cape Town. Within a month, an élite force of 1,200 British soldiers, brought to the Benin River from 4,000 miles away (from London, Cape Town and Malta), had landed on the Nigerian coast, and teamed up with several hundred black troops locally recruited. Thousands of African porters were brought from the British military base at Sierra Leone.

Admiral Rawson's three-pronged attack on Benin City in February 1897 was no pushover. Each of his advancing columns met strong resistance from the local African population. The first one was harassed by Benin soldiers for several days. The second one was attacked in its base camp and the commanding officer was killed.

The story of the third one is given in the diary of Felix Roth, a naval surgeon. He provides considerable evidence of the indiscriminate way in which British forces used their machine-guns to mow down Benin resistance. "We shelled the village, and cleared it of the natives. As the launch and surf-boats grounded, we jumped into the water ... at once placed our Maxim guns and guns in position, firing so as to clear the bush where the natives might be hiding."

Luckily, Roth recorded, "no white men were wounded; we all got off scot-free." This providential protection was easily explained. "Our black troops, with the scouts in front and a few Maxim's, do all the fighting."

Benin City was finally captured on 18 February. British marines put the palaces and compounds to the torch. Worse was to come. After three days, the fires got out of control, burning up what was left of the city as well as the equipment of the invading British force. Much of the carved woodwork in the Oba's palace was lost.

Thus was destroyed the great city of Benin. Miraculously, its extraordinary collection of bronze sculptures, depicting the chief events of the history of Benin's people, had survived. These treasures were removed by the British troops and subsequently auctioned by the Admiralty to defray the cost of the expedition. Most of

the 900 bronzes were bought by museums in Germany. Only a handful found their way to the British Museum.

For a further six months, a small British force harried the countryside in search of the Oba and his chiefs who had fled. Cattle were seized and villages destroyed. Not until August was the Oba cornered and brought back to his ruined city.

**A**n immense throng was assembled to witness the ritual humiliation that the British imposed on their subject peoples. The Oba was required to kneel down in front of the British military "resident" of the town, and to literally bite the dust. Supported by two chiefs, the king made obeisance three times, rubbing his forehead on the ground three times. He was told that he had been deposed.

Some weeks later, Ralph Moor, the orchestrator of these events, arrived to prepare the final humiliation. "Now this is white man's country," Moor told the Oba. "There is only one king in the country, and that is the white man." The Oba and his chiefs were then subjected to a show trial, charged with the murder of Lt Phillips. Moor was the judge.

While the life of the Oba himself was spared, six of his chiefs were condemned to death. One of them, Ologbosheri, continued a guerrilla struggle against the British for another two years. But he too was eventually captured and hanged. The Oba was exiled to Calabar, and replaced by Chief Obaseki, a controller of many villages with rubber-producing forests. These were soon sold off to European firms to supply the rubber for Europe.

The British made much of the cruelties of the Benin kingdom in justifying their military action. In the jargon of the late 20th century, they would have claimed that they were acting to preserve human rights. Yet later investigation showed that the cruelties practised in Benin were not as great as originally pictured. The idea of Benin rule "as one of bloodstained despotism", wrote one historian, "appears at variance with the truth".

Years later, in January 1914, the exiled Oba died in Calabar. Ralph Moor committed suicide in Barnes in September 1909, drinking the potassium cyanide he had bought to kill the wasps in his garden. Admiral Rawson became governor of New South Wales. And less than 20 years after the British had so recklessly turned their machine-guns on the Africans of Benin, they were to receive a taste of their own medicine in the First World War.

Meanwhile, museums are refusing to return the Benin treasures. As one curator put it: "We are not in the business of redressing historic wrongs."



### Everest's Best Ever Sale

Buy Everest windows and doors in February and you could claim up to a massive 35% off. So call today because there has never been a better time to make your home warmer, quieter and more secure.

First Choice Finance

If you want finance, we can also help. We offer an unsecured finance facility subject to status. Written details are available on request.

You only fit double glazing once, so fit the best - Everest.

\* Off list price dependent on order value. Not to be used in conjunction with any other offer. Different discounts apply to Roofline and conservatories. Offer available only at time of quotation.

Call Free 0800 010123 please quote ref FEB723

**YES** I'd like to save up to 35% off Everest's list price. Please arrange a free, no obligation quotation.

Name: Mr/Mrs/Miss \_\_\_\_\_ Home Tel No \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_



Everest House, FREEPOST, Cuffley, Hertfordshire EN6 4YA.

LIMITED PERIOD ONLY

## jo brand's week



In these days of increased aggression and bad behaviour, it seems that not even celebrities are safe from the danger of a harsh word or a flying fist. I noticed in the papers this week that a court case had taken place starring Eddie Izzard, a very nice bloke who wouldn't hurt a fly, not that that personal characteristic has ever been much protection against yobs.

Eddie, apparently, was waiting at a cab rank when he was abused by a passer-by who was obviously somewhat sozzled. In these situations, it is usually better just to take the flak and grin manly, but one can understand Eddie's reaction which involved giving as good as he got. Fistfights occurred, leaving Eddie with a punch in the gob. The perpetrator was fined and Eddie seemed happy that justice had been done.

The problem is that there are certain people who are always going to want to have a go at people they see on the telly and, therefore, I can't understand what possessed Eddie to go and wait at a cab rank at a time when drunk people were likely to be wandering by. I have to admit

I am like a bat out of hell from stage door to car, just in case an incarnation of Yobbo Man is hanging about outside looking for a ruck. I once felt rather put out when I arrived toute saute at *The Mrs Merton Show* in a cab to witness Chris Eubank being escorted in by four very heavy-looking blokes. Then again, I expect far more people in an alcohol frenzy would want to have a go at taking him out, rather than me. I hope so anyway.

Whilst wandering across Leicester Square the other day I was greeted by a bloke selling *The Big Issue*, which besides being for a good cause is actually a decent magazine. We had a bit of a chat and he seemed very cheered off because he had only sold about four copies in the previous hour. However, that was not the source of his frustration. He said he had had enough of people being so rude. He didn't actually mind the fact that people didn't want to buy it, but it was the way in which they didn't want to buy it that wound him up. Apparently, the vast majority of people are very surly. Not a "No, thank you" or "Sorry, mate" ever emanates from their

lips. Now I suspect some of this may be to do with the nauseating attitude *The Sun* has taken towards *The Big Issue*, but I also think it has something to do with the fact that the vast majority of people are absolutely useless at communicating, so they don't bother to do anything. This contributes to the already fairly strong feelings of uselessness and low self-esteem that many homeless people have. So, if you've never bought a *Big Issue*, go on, treat yourself, you might actually enjoy it. And if you don't buy one, at least try and be polite.

The police landed themselves in it again recently when a comedian booked for a charity fund-raiser attended by black and Asian people

Asian women and the comic turned to them and said, "You're not from round here are you?" "No," piped up one of them, "we're from Oldham." It was his biggest laugh of the night.

Hamburg's prostitutes took some time off this week to protest about the closure of one of the city's hospitals. This hospital, which is in the docks area, has traditionally catered for those individuals who have been rejected by everyone else, in a city which has more millionaires than any other city in Germany. It seems as though many places like this are closing down, because they appear to be considered a bit of a luxury. We all seem to be turning our backs on the dispossessed and letting our humanity be eroded, bit by bit. Still, if the prostitutes stay on strike, one can be reassured that the city's bigwigs will eventually be spurred into action.

PS. I'm off on a week's holiday next week, so my mum will be doing my column for me. Let's hope she's not too good, or I'm out of a job. (Only kidding mum ... go for it.)

مكنا من الأصل

## stage climax

Were the couple who made love in a theatre really performing in public?

## david aaronovitch

**I**t was only (Brian Conley said later) as he sang the final bars of *California Here I Come* that the singer realised that the couple in the box nearest the stage were having it away. At first the woman in the London theatre was merely giving the man what Mr Conley called "the Hugh Grant treatment" (pushing her fringe behind her ears, I suppose, and grinning manly), but then she "fitted up her skirt and was sitting on his lap, facing him. I missed quite a few notes". Mr Conley's revelations have, naturally, caused quite a stir. We are all anxious to know what exactly was going on here.

We may speculate that – perhaps – the woman's name was California (this is not impossible given the US tendency to name girls after places – as in Chelsea Clinton and Piddlethryde Perot), and that the show, *Jolson*, was chosen because this particular song would add lustre to the act. I should also admit that one pleasant aspect of this story is that the man was described as past 40 and tubby, while the woman was a shapely young blonde. This suggests that the public sex was her idea, since his fantasies would have been just as well served by a quickie in a hotel room.

This view is strengthened by the fact that, having originally straddled her partner, facing towards him from the stage, she decided to complete her performance while looking down upon Mr Conley. Male readers will be familiar with such sudden shifts of interest on the part of the women that they love.

It is also just possible that this was a couple trying hard to conceive, and that temperature and time had conjoined in a particular way. If so the couple deserve – at least – a standing ovation.

A quick flick through the relevant literature, however, reveals that – according to the authoritative *Daily Mirror* National Sex Survey – the most common sexual fantasy among all Britons, male and female, is making love in a public place. Thirty-three per cent of us, it seems, are gazing to do it over a table in a taverna, on a bus banquette, or in a vet's waiting room. Mind you, the same survey also discovered that 47 per



cent of Scottish males had recently had sex out of doors. I find this most unlikely, unless the survey was of farm animals. And even then ...

But is a box in a theatre a public place at all? Is it not rather a way of being private in public? After all, you are permitted to do all kinds of things in there are prohibited in, say, the stalls. You may eat, you may drink. You may retreat to the back and clip your toenails or adjust your underwear. The Queen even has a loo at the back of her box, saving her from making an embarrassing appearance in the long, fidgety queue for the ladies, and saving Philip from the inevitable curiosity of men in next door urinals, when confronted with a flash of royal pink. She also has a drinks cabinet, so that she does not have to look out for an interval collection of glasses and bottles, bearing the damp legend "HM Queen".

Clearly, things may be accomplished in a box in complete privacy, if necessary. The difficulty comes when this privacy fails to be total. So at what point does the private become public? Is it the crunching of crisps, the popping of champagne corks, an occasional soft belch, an over-appreciative smack of the lips, audible gasps of sexual excitement? Do these break box protocol, demanding complaints to the authorities, or admonitory talking from neighbours? Or do they only conni when the person to whom these sounds are attached is in plain view?

Let us extend the scope of this question. If you pass across your own window naked en route for the knicker drawer, is that indecent exposure? Or let us take the example of a urinal in the press gallery at the House of Commons, where the configuration of open window and porcelain means that an unguarded half turn will inevitably expose one to the full view of anyone standing in the courtyard below – should they have the capacity for instantly resolving such a necessarily fleeting image. Is that peeing in public?

If the answer is no, then there is a case for saying that our amatory couple did nothing wrong – and that the real culprit is Mr Conley, who should have averted his eyes and finished his song.

**T**here was something strange about the reaction to the two men who this week admitted to undergoing sex changes; stranger than the sight of two burly males, a family doctor and a teacher, posing proudly in skirts and silk scarves. The coverage of their transsexuality, although inevitably intrusive, was largely positive. Yesterday's *Daily Mail* story, for example, was headlined "The New Look for Dr John Browne". *The Daily Telegraph*: "Patients back GP who is to become a woman", noting that his surgery had been flooded with calls of support. Even the tabloids ventured nothing more sensational than the Sun's "Sir tells kids: call me mame".

When newspapers best known for their adherence to the most traditional of family values – and their disgust for those who fall outside their parameters – begin covering such stories not just fairly but positively, there is something of a sea change going on.

The Nineties, it was predicted, would be the decade in which gender boundaries would finally dissolve, and to some extent this has been vindicated. There are an estimated 65,000 transsexuals in Britain, with a 50 per cent rise in demand for operations since the mid-Eighties. Appearances have become more androgynous, with long-haired men and shaved-headed women the norm, and merchandisers such as Calvin Klein capitalising on this with phenomenally successful androgynous scents.

Two of the most popular male entertainers of the moment wear women's clothes: the drag queen Lily Savage and the comedian Eddie Izzard, whose preferences for make-up and high heels are so established as to go largely unremarked upon. Their predecessors, Boy George and Julian Clary, are almost passé. These icons, together with increasing numbers of gay marriages and same-sex adoptions, have helped blur the boundaries and foster a more widespread acceptance that gender differences are not limited to those between man and woman.

A more sympathetic view towards transsexuality may also stem from recent scientific claims that this condition could have a physiological origin. It has been noted that transsexuals may have an extra X chromosome, while *Nature* magazine reported that in transsexuals the *stria terminalis*, a region of the brain, was more like a woman's.

But perhaps the biggest factor has been the growth of the cult of self-fulfilment. Imported from the United States, fostered by a thousand talk shows, this movement proposes that everyone has a right to feel personally fulfilled, whatever the cost. By this reasoning, Diane Blood has a moral right to have a baby by her dead husband. A patient has the right to plastic surgery on the NHS because their appearance makes them chronically depressed. Transsexuals have the right to change their birth certificate in order that they can feel properly female, and perhaps even adopt. In the face of such personal unhappiness, who would be churlish enough to deny them?

The problem is that personal fulfilment often comes at a cost – often someone else's personal fulfilment. The wife of Dr John Browne, Shirley, said yesterday that she felt bereaved by his change of gen-

socially fulfilled, whatever the cost. By this reasoning, Diane Blood has a moral right to have a baby by her dead husband. A patient has the right to plastic surgery on the NHS because their appearance makes them chronically depressed. Transsexuals have the right to change their birth certificate in order that they can feel properly female, and perhaps even adopt. In the face of such personal unhappiness, who would be churlish enough to deny them?

The problem is that personal fulfilment often comes at a cost – often someone else's personal fulfilment. The wife of Dr John Browne, Shirley, said yesterday that she felt bereaved by his change of gender. "I have suffered a loss. We were happily married with five wonderful children. Now, here I am on my own," she said. She added that if she could "press a magic button" and get back the man she married, she would.

The feelings of their five children are unreported, but in 1993, St George's Hospital in London opened a clinic for children suffering gender identity disorders – including those undergoing trauma from suddenly acquiring two "mummies" or "daddies".

Finite resources for the health service mean that sex-change operations for transsexuals cannot draw resources from other areas of medicine. While it is unlikely

that other patients will die as a result, health trusts are likely to have to weigh up requests for sex-change operations against, for example, hip replacements: a transsexual's right to fulfilment against a pensioner's right to mobility. Many trusts have already done this, cancelling all "non-essential" surgery.

Sometimes the frenetic search for self-fulfilment may ultimately prove misguided. According to studies in America and Holland, around one in 20 post-operative transsexuals changes his or her mind after surgery, and around one in 10 never adjusts and often becomes deeply depressed.

This may be for a number of reasons; many people who

approach clinics about gender reassignment ultimately realise that their problems stem from something other than their sexual status. And others have unrealistic expectations of how happy gender reassignment is going to make them.

Unfortunately, the majority of male-to-female sex-change cases are always going to look just that: sex-change cases. Large hands and feet,

approach clinics about gender reassignment ultimately realise that their problems stem from something other than their sexual status. And others have unrealistic expectations of how happy gender reassignment is going to make them.

Unfortunately, the majority of male-to-female sex-change cases are always going to look just that: sex-change cases. Large hands and feet,

approach clinics about gender reassignment ultimately realise that their problems stem from something other than their sexual status. And others have unrealistic expectations of how happy gender reassignment is going to make them.

Unfortunately, the majority of male-to-female sex-change cases are always going to look just that: sex-change cases. Large hands and feet,

approach clinics about gender reassignment ultimately realise that their problems stem from something other than their sexual status. And others have unrealistic expectations of how happy gender reassignment is going to make them.

Unfortunately, the majority of male-to-female sex-change cases are always going to look just that: sex-change cases. Large hands and feet,

approach clinics about gender reassignment ultimately realise that their problems stem from something other than their sexual status. And others have unrealistic expectations of how happy gender reassignment is going to make them.

Unfortunately, the majority of male-to-female sex-change cases are always going to look just that: sex-change cases. Large hands and feet,

approach clinics about gender reassignment ultimately realise that their problems stem from something other than their sexual status. And others have unrealistic expectations of how happy gender reassignment is going to make them.

Unfortunately, the majority of male-to-female sex-change cases are always going to look just that: sex-change cases. Large hands and feet,

approach clinics about gender reassignment ultimately realise that their problems stem from something other than their sexual status. And others have unrealistic expectations of how happy gender reassignment is going to make them.

Unfortunately, the majority of male-to-female sex-change cases are always going to look just that: sex-change cases. Large hands and feet,

approach clinics about gender reassignment ultimately realise that their problems stem from something other than their sexual status. And others have unrealistic expectations of how happy gender reassignment is going to make them.

Unfortunately, the majority of male-to-female sex-change cases are always going to look just that: sex-change cases. Large hands and feet,

approach clinics about gender reassignment ultimately realise that their problems stem from something other than their sexual status. And others have unrealistic expectations of how happy gender reassignment is going to make them.

Unfortunately, the majority of male-to-female sex-change cases are always going to look just that: sex-change cases. Large hands and feet,

approach clinics about gender reassignment ultimately realise that their problems stem from something other than their sexual status. And others have unrealistic expectations of how happy gender reassignment is going to make them.

Unfortunately, the majority of male-to-female sex-change cases are always going to look just that: sex-change cases. Large hands and feet,

approach clinics about gender reassignment ultimately realise that their problems stem from something other than their sexual status. And others have unrealistic expectations of how happy gender reassignment is going to make them.

Unfortunately, the majority of male-to-female sex-change cases are always going to look just that: sex-change cases. Large hands and feet,

approach clinics about gender reassignment ultimately realise that their problems stem from something other than their sexual status. And others have unrealistic expectations of how happy gender reassignment is going to make them.

Unfortunately, the majority of male-to-female sex-change cases are always going to look just that: sex-change cases. Large hands and feet,

approach clinics about gender reassignment ultimately realise that their problems stem from something other than their sexual status. And others have unrealistic expectations of how happy gender reassignment is going to make them.

Unfortunately, the majority of male-to-female sex-change cases are always going to look just that: sex-change cases. Large hands and feet,

approach clinics about gender reassignment ultimately realise that their problems stem from something other than their sexual status. And others have unrealistic expectations of how happy gender reassignment is going to make them.

Unfortunately, the majority of male-to-female sex-change cases are always going to look just that: sex-change cases. Large hands and feet,

approach clinics about gender reassignment ultimately realise that their problems stem from something other than their sexual status. And others have unrealistic expectations of how happy gender reassignment is going to make them.

Unfortunately, the majority of male-to-female sex-change cases are always going to look just that: sex-change cases. Large hands and feet,

approach clinics about gender reassignment ultimately realise that their problems stem from something other than their sexual status. And others have unrealistic expectations of how happy gender reassignment is going to make them.

Unfortunately, the majority of male-to-female sex-change cases are always going to look just that: sex-change cases. Large hands and feet,

approach clinics about gender reassignment ultimately realise that their problems stem from something other than their sexual status. And others have unrealistic expectations of how happy gender reassignment is going to make them.

Unfortunately, the majority of male-to-female sex-change cases are always going to look just that: sex-change cases. Large hands and feet,

approach clinics about gender reassignment ultimately realise that their problems stem from something other than their sexual status. And others have unrealistic expectations of how happy gender reassignment is going to make them.

Unfortunately, the majority of male-to-female sex-change cases are always going to look just that: sex-change cases. Large hands and feet,

approach clinics about gender reassignment ultimately realise that their problems stem from something other than their sexual status. And others have unrealistic expectations of how happy gender reassignment is going to make them.

Unfortunately, the majority of male-to-female sex-change cases are always going to look just that: sex-change cases. Large hands and feet,

approach clinics about gender reassignment ultimately realise that their problems stem from something other than their sexual status. And others have unrealistic expectations of how happy gender reassignment is going to make them.

Unfortunately, the majority of male-to-female sex-change cases are always going to look just that: sex-change cases. Large hands and feet,

approach clinics about gender reassignment ultimately realise that their problems stem from something other than their sexual status. And others have unrealistic expectations of how happy gender reassignment is going to make them.

Unfortunately, the majority of male-to-female sex-change cases are always going to look just that: sex-change cases. Large hands and feet,

approach clinics about gender reassignment ultimately realise that their problems stem from something other than their sexual status. And others have unrealistic expectations of how happy gender reassignment is going to make them.

Unfortunately, the majority of male-to-female sex-change cases are always going to look just that: sex-change cases. Large hands and feet,

approach clinics about gender reassignment ultimately realise that their problems stem from something other than their sexual status. And others have unrealistic expectations of how happy gender reassignment is going to make them.

Unfortunately, the majority of male-to-female sex-change cases are always going to look just that: sex-change cases. Large hands and feet,

approach clinics about gender reassignment ultimately realise that their problems stem from something other than their sexual status. And others have unrealistic expectations of how happy gender reassignment is going to make them.

Unfortunately, the majority of male-to-female sex-change cases are always going to look just that: sex-change cases. Large hands and feet,

approach clinics about gender reassignment ultimately realise that their problems stem from something other than their sexual status. And others have unrealistic expectations of how happy gender reassignment is going to make them.

Unfortunately, the majority of male-to-female sex-change cases are always going to look just that: sex-change cases. Large hands and feet,

approach clinics about gender reassignment ultimately realise that their problems stem from something other than their sexual status. And others have unrealistic expectations of how happy gender reassignment is going to make them.

Unfortunately, the majority of male-to-female sex-change cases are always going to look just that: sex-change cases. Large hands and feet,

approach clinics about gender reassignment ultimately realise that their problems stem from something other than their sexual status. And others have unrealistic expectations of how happy gender reassignment is going to make them.

Unfortunately, the majority of male-to-female sex-change cases are always going to look just that: sex-change cases. Large hands and feet,

approach clinics about gender reassignment ultimately realise that their problems stem from something other than their sexual status. And others have unrealistic expectations of how happy gender reassignment is going to make them.

Unfortunately, the majority of male-to-female sex-change cases are always going to look just that: sex-change cases. Large hands and feet,

approach clinics about gender reassignment ultimately realise that their problems stem from something other than their sexual status. And others have unrealistic expectations of how happy gender reassignment is going to make them.

Unfortunately, the majority of male-to-female sex-change cases are always going to look just that: sex-change cases. Large hands and feet,

approach clinics about gender reassignment ultimately realise that their problems stem from something other than their sexual status. And others have unrealistic expectations of how happy gender reassignment is going to make them.

Unfortunately, the majority of male-to-female sex-change cases are always going to look just that: sex-change cases. Large hands and feet,

approach clinics about gender reassignment ultimately realise that their problems stem from something other than their sexual status. And others have unrealistic expectations of how happy gender reassignment is going to make them.

Unfortunately, the majority of male-to-female sex-change cases are always going to look just that: sex-change cases. Large hands and feet,

approach clinics about gender reassignment ultimately realise that their problems stem from something other than their sexual status. And others have unrealistic expectations of how happy gender reassignment is going to make them.

Unfortunately, the majority of male-to-female sex-change cases are always going to look just that: sex-change cases. Large hands and feet,

approach clinics about gender reassignment ultimately realise that their problems stem from something other than their sexual status. And others have unrealistic expectations of how happy gender reassignment is going to make them.

Unfortunately, the majority of male-to-female sex-change cases are always going to look just that: sex-change cases. Large hands and feet,

approach clinics about gender reassignment ultimately realise that their problems stem from something other than their sexual status. And others have unrealistic expectations of how happy gender reassignment is going to make them.

Unfortunately, the majority of male-to-female sex-change cases are always going to look just that: sex-change cases. Large hands and feet,

approach clinics about gender reassignment ultimately realise that their problems stem from something other than their sexual status. And others have unrealistic expectations of how happy gender reassignment is going to make them.

Unfortunately, the majority of male-to-female sex-change cases are always going to look just that: sex-change cases. Large hands and feet,

approach clinics about gender reassignment ultimately realise that their problems stem from something other than their sexual status. And others have unrealistic expectations of how

# business & city

Business news desk: tel 0171-293 2636 fax 0171-293 2098  
BUSINESS & CITY EDITOR: JEREMY WARNER

## Centrica director quits in political feud

Tories oppose Lambeth Council chief's non-executive job

**Chris Godsmark**  
Business Correspondent

A political farce has struck at British Gas's former supply business, Centrica, just four days after it split itself off as a separate company.

The farce culminated yesterday in the surprise resignation from Centrica's board of Heather Rabbatts, the former barrister and currently the high-profile chief executive of Lambeth Council, following a typically bitter internal feud among rival political factions in the London borough.

Mrs Rabbatts told councillors last November of her intention to join the Centrica board as a non-executive director. She was drafted in to grapple with Lambeth's catalogue of problems two years ago on a £15,000 salary, reputed to be the highest in local government.

Most Labour members at Lambeth, a "hung" authority in which no party exercises overall control, had supported the job at Centrica. Ms Rabbatts had pledged to pay her £20,000 salary from Centrica, which covered her attendance at eight board meetings a year, to local charities. It was believed to be the first time a salaried council official had been appointed to a non-executive directorship.

Jim Dickson, leader of the Labour group, said yesterday: "Failure to support her appointment is a missed opportunity for Lambeth. It would have provided a productive trade in ideas between the public and private sectors for the benefit of both."

A source at the council said: "We have had our own well-known problems here just like British Gas, including terrible service and a dreadful press reputation. Heather is sorting that out and I would have thought her experience would have come in useful at Centrica."

However, in what appeared to be a bizarre twist of allegiances Conservative councillors, supported by some local union officials, opposed the appointment. In the local press, Unison, the public service union which also has many Centrica members, had claimed the directorship was another example of the "fat cat" mentality which had plagued the company and was now creeping into local government.

Councillor Bernard Gentry, deputy leader of the Conservative group, said: "Lambeth is still in a dreadful mess. Her time is needed here." He also said the Conservatives would be investigating why Ms Rabbatts had apparently taken up the appointment despite needing to seek approval from councillors beforehand.

The Conservative group said this was a serious development. Mr Gentry denied that his local party's opposition to Ms Rabbatts' Centrica job was a break with normal Conservative policy, which encourages the injection of business principles into the public services.

Meanwhile the Liberal Democrats, who hold marginally the largest number of seats in the borough, also objected, though claimed they were not



In demand: Heather Rabbatts, chief executive of Lambeth Council, resigned as a Centrica non-exec after a bizarre political battle among councillors

opposed to such moves in principle. Mike Tuffrey, leader of the group, explained: "Most of our members were opposed to this. Her talents need to be addressed to the borough."

Ms Rabbatts was to be one of

six non-executive directors at Centrica, alongside Sir Michael Perry, chairman, and Bill Cockburn who is also chief executive of WH Smith.

Roy Gardner, chief executive, said he was very sorry about the

resignation, but argued the board still had a strong team of non-executives. A Centrica spokeswoman said there would be no immediate move to replace her. "We are not going to rush into anything."

Ms Rabbatts declined to comment on the resignation, apart from saying it was a matter of personal regret. However, a source close to the Lambeth chief executive said: "In terms of conflicts of interest, there just wasn't one. As for whether she could spare the time to take this job on, she has said it would come out of her annual leave."

Centrica shares ended their first week on the stock market with a drop of 1.75p yesterday.

## Soaring bonus payments push up staff costs by 17% at UBS

**Jill Treanor**  
Banking Correspondent

Soaring bonus payments were behind a 17 per cent rise in staff costs last year at Union Bank of Switzerland (UBS), the giant Swiss banking group.

UBS, which has a large investment banking, asset management and private banking operation in the UK, said performance and profit related bonuses were considerably higher than in 1995 because the bank had produced a good operating result.

The bank reported a Sfr348m (£140m) loss for the year, which was expected because UBS said last year it would take a special provision of Sfr4.4bn for future credit risks. Without

those charges, UBS would have reported a 7 per cent increase in profits to about Sfr1.8bn.

In the UK, UBS is well known for its fund management group PDMF, run by Tony Dye, which last year lagged its competitors by moving out of shares just before the index headed for record levels.

A UBS official insisted yesterday that PDMF had remained very profitable during the year and had continued to attract new clients.

Mathis Cabiallavetta, chief executive of UBS, nevertheless admitted that PDMF had lagged behind the competition in 1996 because of a strict implementation of its "value investment" style. This resulted in disappointing results across the

globe in 1996, and over-cautious valuation of the US market.

Unlike many other banking groups, UBS does not want to become a global investment bank. Instead it plans to take a more selective approach to investment banking.

"We want to focus our efforts particularly on the expansion of our asset management business both at home and abroad..."

Obviously an acquisition is a step that cannot be ruled out entirely," Mr Cabiallavetta said.

The bank has tracked down rightful owners for around a third of the SFr10m in dormant World War Two-era accounts, which Jewish groups believe may belong to Holocaust victims. But around Sfr3.5m came from two accounts held by peo-

ple who died shortly after the war, and were not victims of the Holocaust.

Mr Cabiallavetta said the bank was committed to working with an independent panel set up by Swiss bankers and Jewish groups last May.

"It must be said, however, that it is unlikely that any vast amounts to be distributed to any potential heirs of Holocaust victims will be uncovered," he said.

From May 1, UBS will adopt the acronym UBS as a global brand rather than spelling out its full name or using its German-language name as it has traditionally done in Switzerland. It is the second of the country's three big banks to change its brand.

The row over the future of Christian Salvesen, the Edinburgh-based transport and retail group, intensified yesterday after rebel shareholders rolled out James Grant, the former finance director of Lucas, to lead a new attack on board proposals to demerge Aggreko.

Mr Grant criticised the recent performance of Salvesen under current chief executive Chris Masters, saying the transport logistics side of the group had become "obsessed with cost cutting" and accused the Aggreko generator hire operation of complacency. He claimed that the rate of return at the group had sunk from 25 per cent to under 15 per cent

over the past three years, below the cost of capital in the logistics division at least. Only they had "the vision, the strategy to produce growth," he suggested.

But Salvesen, which yesterday published a circular outlining its plans to pay a one-off £100m foreign income dividend as a precursor to demerging Aggreko, roundly denied the allegations.

Mr Masters said: "Aggreko is now a world leader in what it does. It was a major supplier to the Atlanta Olympics. To say it has become complacent is just simply untrue."

He also explained that the return on capital in logistics had fallen recently because Salvesen had invested over £100m in the business over the past three years, which inevitably depressed

returns. But he went on: "The key issue is that the days when logistics was all about trucks and warehouses are gone. Now managing the supply chain is about [information technology] systems... and for that reason it is becoming less capital intensive."

He said suggestions by the rebels that they should buy rivals did not make sense. "I simply do not see it as a tenable strategy to buy more transport businesses."

Mr Grant spent 25 years with Jaguar before becoming part of the team which helped turn round Lucas, which recently merged with Varty of US. The rebels, led by Sir Gerald Elliot, a former Salvesen chairman, plan to unveil their own business plan for the group early next week.

## Inntrepreneur offers discounts to tenants

**Tom Stevenson**  
City Editor

Inntrepreneur, the pub company jointly owned by Fosters and Grand Metropolitan, moved to build bridges with disgruntled tenants yesterday by offering its publicans a package of beer discounts and other benefits. The deal, which Inntrepreneur is funding from its own coffers until a supply deal with Scottish & Newcastle expires next March, means the company is unlikely to seek a stock market flotation for at least two years and possibly longer.

The main plank of the package is a base discount of £30 a barrel on beer supplied by Scottish Courage's mainstream brands, which include Courage Best Bitter, Director's, John Smith's, Holsten, Budweiser and Foster's lager.

Inntrepreneur said it would

## Good times roll again for Eighties property barons

**John Willcock**

If any further proof were needed that the frothy boom times of the eighties are back, just look at the property developers who everyone thought were long gone, but are now back in business with speculative projects.

The four UK high street banks may have racked up bad debt provisions of over £5bn in 1992, much of it due to the post 80s property crash, but this is not putting the banks off from supporting another wave of development.

Godfrey Bradman, Martin Landau, Gerald Ronson, Stuart Lipton, Trevor Osborne and Paul Reichmann are all back in business, showing the younger generation of developers how it's done.

Property development proves that there is at least one area of British business where failure is no barrier to subsequent success.

Take Godfrey Bradman, the former tax specialist who built the Broadgate office complex in the City, but who then lost control of the development in the recession and saw his company, Roschaugh, go bust.

Mr Bradman is now back buying and selling development land, and recently sold a pack-

age of land in Paddington Basin to Elliott Bernard of Chelsfield.

Part of Trevor Osborne's Speybank company went bust in the recession, and he is now back as head of Trevor Osborne Property Ltd.

Probably the biggest player of them all, Paul Reichmann, saw his Olympia & York global

property empire crumble in 1992 when Canary Wharf, the Independent's home, went into administration. Mr Reichmann then lead a consortium which bought the development back from the banks, although he is thought to have only around 10 per cent of the equity.

Then there's Martin Landau,

who developed Royal Mint Court in the City. He merged his company City Merchant Development with Inny and sold out at the top of the eighties property boom. Inny subsequently went bust, leaving its banker Barclays to dispose of its properties.

Mr Landau is now back as head of Development Securi-

ties, with Lord Gowrie as chairman. This new company is redeveloping MI5's former headquarters at One Curzon Street, Mayfair, which it acquired at the end of 1995 for just over pounds £55m.

Stuart Lipton sold his company Stanhope to British Land and is now back with new ventures. Gerald Ronson has also made a dramatic come back. His company Heron unveiled a £200m residential and commercial development near Chepstow in South Wales last week. The development, if approved, will cover 500 acres and include a new bypass for Chepstow.

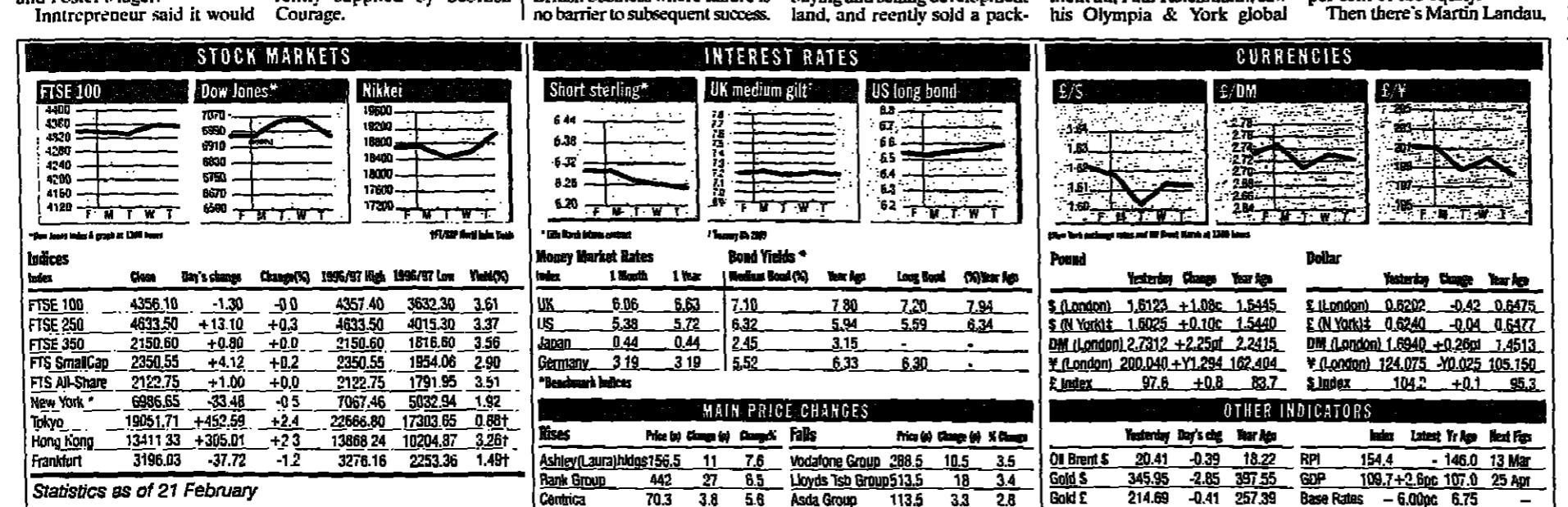
Heron nearly collapsed in the post 1980s property crash. It only survived with the support of over 80 banks, which allowed it to write off around £1bn. New investors then injected over £100m of capital leaving Mr Ronson with just 5 per cent of the equity.

## Euro Disney chief moves to Club Med

Philippe Bourguignon, chairman of Euro Disney who is credited with reviving the fortunes of the troubled Disneyland Paris theme park just outside Paris, yesterday unexpectedly left the company to join Club Med, another troubled leisure group, writes Clifford German.

His departure comes just two weeks after Euro Disney's finance director Xavier de Mezerec also left unexpectedly. "It is great news for Club Med and a disaster for Euro Disney," according to Nigel Reed, analyst at Paribas Capital Markets.

Illustration: Steve Bell



مكنا من الأصل



JEREMY WARNER

The true conspiracy theorist might suspect an even darker purpose behind Sky's manoeuvring – to ensure that digital terrestrial doesn't actually happen at all, leaving the future to the Murdoch monopoly of digital satellite.

## A cosy little carve-up in digital television

Digital Television Network is a catchy enough, hi-tech name for a company but you'd be forgiven for not having noticed it. In fact it is the other bidder for the licence to run digital terrestrial television. "Other" is the operative word here, for its bid got utterly lost in all the excitement a couple of weeks back that surrounded the spectacle of Michael Green of Carlton and Gerry Robinson of Granada jumping into bed with Rupert Murdoch's BSkyB to form the only alternative consortium in the running.

Against this kind of fire power, the DTN bid must already look a losing cause. But that hasn't stopped its backers launching a well resourced PR and lobbying campaign to urge its case. DTN is still adamant it can win. Is this just wishful thinking, or is there a realistic chance?

DTN starts from a position of weakness, financially and in every other respect. What was intended as a consortium of powerful commercial and financial interests is now just a one-man band. Spooked by the arrival of BSkyB, first Canal Plus, then NetWest, then Merrill Lynch and finally United News and Media all dropped out of the running. While there is still some possibility of Lord Holford's United News coming back in, DTN as it stands consists of just NTL, the transmission services company owned by International CableTel.

This in itself is a serious enough company, but it is by no means clear what its motives are here. Is it genuinely interested in developing digital terrestrial, or is its main interest in lucrative supply and upgrade contracts for NTL?

Even taking the charitable view, the unfortunate truth is that DTN's chief card is an entirely negative one – that it is the only alternative to a powerful and monopolistic alliance of Britain's biggest commercial TV companies. It has to be admitted, however, that this is quite an ace – so much so that you begin to wonder why it was that Carlton and Granada invited BSkyB in.

On the face of it, BSkyB brings nothing but downside to the consortium. It already has a monopoly of analogue pay TV and is intent on making its own digital satellite systems the dominant future platform for pay TV. It provides the vast bulk of the programming for Britain's still fragmented and shambolic cable industry. It will have a monopoly of subscription management in both satellite digital and terrestrial digital. And finally it owns the rights to the encryption technology that allows pay TV supply. Now it is proposing to become the dominant partner in the commercial part of digital terrestrial too. Is there no stopping this company?

DTN's best hope may lie in Brussels, which has shown itself to be far from shy about meddling in Britain's TV market. If the European Commission thinks BSkyB's monopoly of pay TV would be strengthened by the company's participation in digital terrestrial, it might take action.

There's no guessing how the Independent Television Commission in Britain will choose to treat these concerns. Its brief is to award the licence to the consortium most likely to achieve the biggest take-up of digital, so that the analogue spectrum can be freed up for other things. That provides plenty of scope for the ITC to award the licence to Sky, regardless of the competition issues.

The combined programming attributes of Sky, Granada and Carlton would appear to be streets ahead of its rival. DTN is able to offer some genuine innovations on interactive services, but in terms of content, the contest still looks an uneven one.

The politics of it all gives a further dimension. The decision could be taken at any time between now and the end of May – in other words it could be either before or after the general election. If the ITC intends to go for DTN, it is unlikely to announce its decision before the election, for to do so would risk the wrath of Mr Murdoch, who might then feel inclined to swing his newspapers behind

the Labour Party. This shouldn't be a concern to the ITC, which is meant to be entirely independent of and uncorrupted by the politicians; in practice it is very much a concern. To award the licence to Sky ahead of the election would be equally awkward, for the Conservatives could then be accused of trying to bribe Mr Murdoch into supporting the cause.

All this points to a decision after the election. That makes the stakes for the Sky consortium even higher. Just remember: it was the Sun won't win it last time round. For the time being its politics are still fluid. Mr Murdoch has played a clever game in keeping the politicians guessing which way the tide will swing. The choice is not an easy one. If the Sun sticks the boot into Labour and Labour wins anyway, then the independence of the ITC will not be worth a fig.

One way or another, the new government will find a way of ostracising Sky. In these circumstances, Mr Murdoch's best policy might be to have his titles sit on the fence.

Equally possible is that some kind of understanding has been reached during the now quite regular meetings between Tony Blair and Mr Murdoch. Back us and you can have what you want. Mr Blair might have said. If this sounds just too conspiratorial to be believed, just read Andrew Neil's book. These are murky waters.

Indeed the true conspiracy theorist might suspect an even darker purpose behind Sky's manoeuvring – to ensure that digital terrestrial doesn't actually happen at all, leaving the future to the Murdoch monopoly of digital satellite. If that seems to be taking the argument just a little too far, the truth is probably not far different.

In evidence this week to the National Heritage Select Committee inquiry into the future of broadcasting, DTN accused Sky of only being along for the ride. The Sky bid had at its heart a partner whose chief purpose was developing digital satellite as the dominant delivery platform for pay TV. DTN said: "It offers nothing substantive in the area of inter-active services, may weaken competition in the telecoms market and will do little to help advertisers or programme providers."

What DTN is saying here is that these broadcasters are bidding merely for the purpose of monopolising the latest form of delivery and preventing anyone else getting a look in. Undoubtedly it is right about this. What is proposed amounts to a cosy little carve-up.

The tragedy of the situation is that DTN by itself is probably not credible enough to provide a realistic alternative. Lamentably, the company that nobody's ever heard of looks destined to remain that way.

## Blair 'may face rail franchise cash crisis'

Randeep Ramesh  
Transport Correspondent

The Labour Party has been warned by British Rail managers that a train operating company will have to ask for more cash to run services within three years of Tony Blair taking office, according to shadow cabinet aides.

The managers claimed that some of the private operators bid so aggressively for train services that they will not be able to meet the ambitious targets they have set for themselves.

Labour is committed to refusing any further subsidy payments and if the private firm will not be able to run trains with the money provided by the government, Labour's new rail authority will take over the franchise.

One option under consideration is a hit squad of rail professionals who will step in, should a franchisee pull out, and run the service.

A spokesman for Glenda Jackson, a shadow transport minister, said: "Labour will take a tough policy towards franchisees who fail to meet their obligations. We will not be held to ransom by private companies."

The Government said that it would not shell out more subsidies. "We would take a very dim view of any bidder coming back for any more money than has been agreed," said a spokesman for Ofrair, the office of passenger franchising.



On the attack: Chelsea chairman Ken Bates played down worries about costs as he announced reduced losses

## Lira up as Italy's tax for Europe gets go-ahead

Katherine Butler  
Brussels  
Yvette Cooper  
London

Italy's bid to become a founding member of the single European currency in 1999 was significantly boosted yesterday after it received the go-ahead from Brussels to use its controversial "tax for Europe", a

one-off levy on personal incomes, to reduce its deficit to meet the Maastricht criteria.

The lira rose to 986.80 against the mark yesterday following the EU decision, and in response to remarks by Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi and Bundesbank council member Ernst Weltevete, which increased traders' expectations that Italy would join EMU in the first wave.

Eurostat, the EU's statistical watchdog, ruled that the new Euro-tax, expected to raise around £12,000m (£4.5bn), can legitimately be employed to slash the national budget deficit this year.

Questions had arisen that part of the tax, worth around 0.19 per cent of GDP, was in fact a loan rather than a sustainable way to reduce the

deficit, because politicians had promised to repay the tax in future.

Mr Prodi said yesterday: "Europe is within reach." Italy was still £6,000m, to £14,000m short of meeting the Maastricht criteria, hence the need for a mini-budget later this year, he said.

Aware that Germany is deeply uneasy about Italian en-

try into EMU in the first wave, Mr Prodi said: "Europe is not just about a currency. It is impossible to think of Europe cut off from its great Latin culture ... If we are not in the first group, our currency would come under assault, our economy would be defenceless, our international credibility would be diminished."

Earlier this week, the lira fell

against the mark as traders began to think that Italy could not make the first wave. Yesterday the lira regained some of that ground. But it was also helped by concern that Germany itself might not make the Maastricht criteria.

Mr Weltevete said yesterday: "I share doubts that Germany will meet the fiscal criterion's reference value this year."

## Disaster-prone Hickson puts the past behind it

### THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY MAGNUS GRIMOND

from disposals over the past couple of years, but it is still signalling the need for one or more further sales to meet a commitment to lenders to cut debts by £25m by the year end. Talks are thought to be under way with a number of prospective purchasers, but Hickson is coy about which business areas are on the block.

Success would leave gearing at somewhere below 30 per cent and the raw numbers need a little interpretation though.

Comparisons are flattered by the £50.9m exceptional taken in 1995 to cover disposals and restructuring costs, a figure which has been cut to £17m in the latest results. Stripping that out and the Hickson Manro surfactants business, whose sale led to last year's exceptional charge, underlying operating profits edged up from £9.7m to £10.5m. But even that is not the whole picture, because insurance recoveries after a fire in the group's PharmaChem business in Cork slumped from £7m to £400,000 between the two years. Sir James suggests the real underlying improvement at the operating level is therefore more like £2m, reflecting the recovery programme instituted after a board clearance in 1995. That is on course to deliver cost savings of £5m a year by 1998.

Sir James also had plenty of progress to report on the group's debts, which threatened to overwhelm the group last year when Hickson had to go cap in hand to its bankers. Borrowings have fallen steadily from the £103m peak they hit in November 1995 and ended the year at £56.4m.

The group has raised around £50m

PharmaChem site. That is still running way below former capacity levels after the fire and the major loss of business in the wake of the Persil Power accelerator debacle, but Hickson is making progress in rebuilding the operation and is now boasting work for five of the world's top 10 drug companies. Trading losses last year are thought to be around half the £2m racked up in 1995 and PharmaChem should be profitable by the end of the year.

Hickson International: at a glance

	Turnover (£m)	Profit (£m)	Earnings per share (pence)	Dividends per share (pence)
1995	343	388	393	384
1996	245	24.5	10.5	10.0
1997 (est)	245	24.5	8.9	25.6
1998 (est)	245	24.5	5.6	5.6

There is also progress to report in the group's other problem area, the Castleford operations of the Hickson & Welch chemical intermediates business. New management and new contracts with the likes of Du Pont helped profit more than double to £5m.

James Capel has raised its forecast for this year from £10m to £11.5m, despite an expected £1.5m hit for currency, putting the shares down 0.5p at 66.5p, on a forward multiple of 12, dropping to under 9.

The recovery potential is strong, but the sector is out of favour and a US price war in wood preservatives could prove a dampener on Hickson's business. Hold.

Appetite for Nord Anglia

The boom in the stock market is leading to a predictable flood of new issues, one that should stand out proud of the torrent. Founded 25 years ago by the executive chairman Kevin McNealy, the group claims to be unique in being the only substantial UK operator of private educational establishments and provider of "outsourced" educational services. Mr McNealy is nailing his colours to the business by selling only £700,000 worth of shares in this month's flotation and agreeing to a two-year lock-in for his remaining 45 per cent stake, worth £8.1m at the 140p a share placing price.

The group is planning to raise £5.75m for itself in the float and £3.5m for existing shareholders, mainly venture capital backers Charterhouse and the Royal Bank of Scotland, both of which are bailing

out completely after seven years. Mr McNealy said "the appetite for the shares has been near breath-taking" and he certainly talks a good story.

Pre-tax profits have grown from £91.7m in 1994 to £1.63m last year. The group's brokers, Henry Cooke, Lumsden, are forecasting £2.1m for the current year to August, putting the shares on a forward p/e of 14 at the placing price.

That looks reasonable in the current state of the market, but valuing Nord Anglia is tricky, given the lack of similar businesses against which to compare it. The main profit earner last year was 15 private schools in the UK and three established in Moscow, Warsaw and Prague over the last few years. But although the schools division chipped in £1.15m last year, the backwash of the recession is slowing growth in traditional activities and the main excitement lies elsewhere.

The provision of outsourced local and national government services, from inspectors for Ofsted, the schools watchdog, to lecturers for colleges of further education has grown from nowhere to profits of £181,000 last year. Given growth rates in excess of 15 per cent, this business could be providing half the group's bottom line in two years. The presence of the former government minister Sir David Trippier on the board should help in that aim.

Mr McNealy talks of eventually taking over the running of local authority schools, but in the meantime is building a chain of all-day nursery schools. Operating in a highly fragmented market and with returns on capital of 20 per cent, that could prove most fruitful.

Worth picking up for any investors who can get hold of the shares.

John Hayes, the former chairman and founder of Swindon Motors, was jailed for five years for fraudulent trading. Judge Richard May at Oxford Crown Court also disqualified Hayes from acting as a company director for 10 years. He sentenced David Sharrett, the car dealership's former finance director, to a three-and-a-half year jail term and disqualified him as a company director for seven years. The jury failed to reach a verdict on the same charge brought against Richard Hayes, the operations director and brother of the chairman, and the judge ordered that the charge remain on file. The case was brought after Swindon's aborted stock market flotation in November 1993. Receivers established that, contrary to accounting documents, the car dealership was grossly insolvent to the tune of £25m.

Pearson has sold its 10 per cent stake in Hong Kong's Television Broadcasts for £11.2m, two years after it paid £10.6m for the stake. Its brokers, Marjorie Scardino, chief executive, said: "Our commitment to the growth of our businesses in Asia/Pacific is as strong as ever, but we have decided that this investment is no longer effective in developing either our television business or our interests in the region." However, Pearson said it would continue in its Indian joint venture with TVB, the *Hindustan Times*, Carlton and Schroders.

Official figures confirmed that the British economy grew by 0.8 per cent in the fourth quarter of 1996. The annual rate of GDP growth was revised upwards by 0.1 percentage points to 2.7 per cent for 1996 as a whole. Consumer spending once again proved the driving force behind growth, rising by 0.9 per cent in the last three months of 1996. However, investment remained weak, growing by only 0.2 percentage points after a large fall in the third quarter. Domestic demand as a whole grew by 0.6 per cent, easing the pressures on the Chancellor to raise interest rates.

France intends to knock state bank Crédit Lyonnais into shape to privatise it in two years, a finance ministry spokeswoman said. She added that the ministry would hold off on submitting a rescue plan for the bank to the European Commission for approval until the end of March as it looked for ways to limit the drain on public funds. The rescue plan, the third in four years, had been expected to be lodged in Brussels this week.

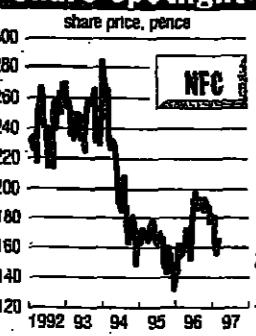
Inspirations, the holiday company, said winter passenger volumes had increased by 12 per cent, while the retail division was substantially ahead compared to the same time last year. Jim Harris, chairman, said at the annual general meeting that average prices obtained were significantly higher than last year. Inspirations has reduced capacity for the coming summer by around 20 per cent. The percentage of the programme sold is considerably higher than at the corresponding time last year, the chairman said.

# market report / shares

## Data Bank

<b>FTSE 100</b>	-19.3
4336.8	-19.3
<b>FTSE 250</b>	-2.5
4631.0	-2.5
<b>FTSE 350</b>	-7.8
2142.8	-7.8
<b>SEAQ VOLUME</b>	
778.9m shares,	
50,498 bargains	
<b>Gilt's Index</b>	
n/a	

## Share spotlight



# Zeneca takeover rumours return on late trading surge

If it is Friday it must be time to get the old Zeneca takeover rumour going again. That appeared to have been the thinking among dealers yesterday as shares in the drugs giant surged in late trade to close at a record high of 1895.5p, up 78p.

In the event bullish comments from US investment bank Merrill Lynch were behind the excitement this time.

Analyst Nigel Barnes said Zeneca's shares were worth 2050p, or \$100 per ADR, based on his forecast of 22 times forecast earnings in 1998. He feels the shares should trade at much less of a discount to its US peers given the expected strong growth in Zeneca's new products and prospects for gains in other US drug stocks. Merrill made similar arguments for Smithkline Beecham earlier this week, saying the shares, down 23p yesterday to 923p, were worth 1000p.

US investors have also shown



## MARKET REPORT

PATRICK TOOHER

renewed interest in Zeneca shares since the company's chief executive David Barnes spoke at the brokerage's healthcare conference last week.

A volatile session saw the FTSE-100 index move in a 50 point range before closing 19.3 down at 4336.8. Financials were weak ahead of next week's raft of results from the sector. Standard Chartered, reporting final results on Wednesday, dipped 16p to 793p, while Guardian Royal Exchange, posting figures a day earlier, shed 6.5p to 289.5p while Commercial Union was off 12.5p to 708.5p ahead of final figures on Wednesday.

Partly paid shares in Railtrack steamed ahead to close at 3 record high of 446p, up 23.5p on the day in volume of 7.5m shares, making it the best performing blue chip. Sentiment was helped by Railtrack's plans, announced on Thursday, to spend £4m a day over the next ten years improving the rail

network's stations, tracks and signalling.

Reckitt & Colman benefited from NatWest support. The shares added 17p to 795p as the broker urged investors to add to their holdings. Compared to its European food peers, Reckitt looked very inexpensive and was the only one that held any speculative appeal or was in a position to initiate a share buy-back or pay a special dividend.

Euro Disney held at 110p. The Paris theme park operator announced just before the market closed that Philippe Bourguignon is leaving his post as chairman and chief executive to join rival leisure group Club Méditerranée. He will be suc-

ceeded by Gilles Pélisson, Euro Disney's president and chief operating officer.

NFC, the freight transport group which BBC boss Sir Christopher Bland chairs, topped the list of FTSE-250 risers, motoring ahead 9.5p to 166.5p. NatWest was active in pushing the stock on the back of its analysts' recommendation to clients to accumulate the shares. NatWest thinks the 32 per cent outperformance of the shares since last August is deserved given the restructuring potential still to take place. The proposed management buy-out of express parcel delivery unit Lynx sets the tone with the BRS distribution arm seen as the next obvious candidate for disposal. With a capital value of £200m plus an annual capital expenditure requirement of £80m, selling BRS would significantly alter both NFC's operational and financial position.

Rumours persisted that the

Mirror Group, which has a 46 per cent stake in The Independent, was about to swoop for Midland Independent News-papers unchanged at 140p. Sources at the Mirror played down the speculation.

Pace Micro hit a new low of 158.5p before recovering to close a net penny higher at 162p as the latest deadline set by satellite broadcaster BSkyB for the award of its digital set-top box contracts passed without incident.

Some bottom-fishing was seen in Dailwin, whose shares have been in the doldrums since the Hong Kong-based watchmaker warned of lower second-half profits and a dividend cut. They came off their low of 50p, touching 54.5p at one stage before settling at 51.5p. Assuming a 5p payout this year, the shares yield 9.3 per cent gross and stand on a multiple of less than five times earnings, traders note.

## Taking Stock

Sunderland held at 752.5p. Wimpey has bought the football club's historic Roker Park ground for £1.3m - some £300,000 more than its carrying value in Sunderland's books. Wimpey plans to build 120 homes on the site, something it is becoming rather adept at in the North-East. It recently bought neighbouring Middlesbrough's Ayresome Park stadium, which Wimpey is turning into 139 houses.

Emerald Energy slipped 0.75p to 6.25p. News that the independent energy explorer expects to start its first well in its Colombian drilling programme on 10 March 10 left analysts unimpressed. Execution-only broker ShareLink said the stock was most popular buy among its clients in the last week following excitement over drilling prospects.

## Share Price Data

Prices are in sterling except where stated. The yield is last year's dividend, grossed up by 20 per cent, as a percentage of the share price. The price/earnings (PE) ratio is the share price divided by last year's earnings per share, excluding exceptional items. Other symbols: E = Envelope; B = Bond; S = Share; M = Market Suspended; P = Party Paid on Nil Paid Shares; + = AIM Stock.

Source: FT Information

## The Independent Index

The index allows you to access real-time share prices by phone from London Stock Exchange. Simply dial 0851 223 326, and when prompted to do so, enter the 4-digit code 1000. You will then receive the latest financial reports dat 0851 1233 followed by one of the two-digit codes below:

FTSE 100 - Retailers 00 Sterling Rates 04 Pressman Issues 35  
UK Stock Market Report 01 Bullion Report 05 Water Shares 35  
UK Company News 02 Wall St Report 06 Electricity Shares 43  
Foreign Exchange 03 Tokyo Market 21 High Street Banks 43

Anyone with a tone-dial telephone can use this service. For a detailed description of the Independent Index, including its portfolio facility, phone 0851 1233. Calls cost 50p per minute. Call charges include VAT.

Source: FT Information

For a detailed description of the Independent Index, including its portfolio facility, phone 0851 1233. Calls cost 50p per minute. Call charges include VAT.

Source: FT Information

For a detailed description of the Independent Index, including its portfolio facility, phone 0851 1233. Calls cost 50p per minute. Call charges include VAT.

Source: FT Information

For a detailed description of the Independent Index, including its portfolio facility, phone 0851 1233. Calls cost 50p per minute. Call charges include VAT.

Source: FT Information

For a detailed description of the Independent Index, including its portfolio facility, phone 0851 1233. Calls cost 50p per minute. Call charges include VAT.

Source: FT Information

For a detailed description of the Independent Index, including its portfolio facility, phone 0851 1233. Calls cost 50p per minute. Call charges include VAT.

Source: FT Information

For a detailed description of the Independent Index, including its portfolio facility, phone 0851 1233. Calls cost 50p per minute. Call charges include VAT.

Source: FT Information

For a detailed description of the Independent Index, including its portfolio facility, phone 0851 1233. Calls cost 50p per minute. Call charges include VAT.

Source: FT Information

For a detailed description of the Independent Index, including its portfolio facility, phone 0851 1233. Calls cost 50p per minute. Call charges include VAT.

Source: FT Information

For a detailed description of the Independent Index, including its portfolio facility, phone 0851 1233. Calls cost 50p per minute. Call charges include VAT.

Source: FT Information

For a detailed description of the Independent Index, including its portfolio facility, phone 0851 1233. Calls cost 50p per minute. Call charges include VAT.

Source: FT Information

For a detailed description of the Independent Index, including its portfolio facility, phone 0851 1233. Calls cost 50p per minute. Call charges include VAT.

Source: FT Information

For a detailed description of the Independent Index, including its portfolio facility, phone 0851 1233. Calls cost 50p per minute. Call charges include VAT.

Source: FT Information

For a detailed description of the Independent Index, including its portfolio facility, phone 0851 1233. Calls cost 50p per minute. Call charges include VAT.

Source: FT Information

For a detailed description of the Independent Index, including its portfolio facility, phone 0851 1233. Calls cost 50p per minute. Call charges include VAT.

Source: FT Information

For a detailed description of the Independent Index, including its portfolio facility, phone 0851 1233. Calls cost 50p per minute. Call charges include VAT.

Source: FT Information

For a detailed description of the Independent Index, including its portfolio facility, phone 0851 1233. Calls cost 50p per minute. Call charges include VAT.

Source: FT Information

For a detailed description of the Independent Index, including its portfolio facility, phone 0851 1233. Calls cost 50p per minute. Call charges include VAT.

Source: FT Information

For a detailed description of the Independent Index, including its portfolio facility, phone 0851 1233. Calls cost 50p per minute. Call charges include VAT.

Source: FT Information

For a detailed description of the Independent Index, including its portfolio facility, phone 0851 1233. Calls cost 50p per minute. Call charges include VAT.

Source: FT Information

For a detailed description of the Independent Index, including its portfolio facility, phone 0851 1233. Calls cost 50p per minute. Call charges include VAT.

Source: FT Information

For a detailed description of the Independent Index, including its portfolio facility, phone 0851 1233. Calls cost 50p per minute. Call charges include VAT.

Source: FT Information

For a detailed description of the Independent Index, including its portfolio facility, phone 0851 1233. Calls cost 50p per minute. Call charges include VAT.

Source: FT Information

For a detailed description of the Independent Index, including its portfolio facility, phone 0851 1233. Calls cost 50p per minute. Call charges include VAT.

Source: FT Information

For a detailed description of the Independent Index, including its portfolio facility, phone 0851 1233. Calls cost 50p per minute. Call charges include VAT.

Source: FT Information

For a detailed description of the Independent Index, including its portfolio facility, phone 0851 1233. Calls cost 50p per minute. Call charges include VAT.

Source: FT Information

For a detailed description of the Independent Index, including its portfolio facility, phone 0851 1233. Calls cost 50p per minute. Call charges include VAT.

Source: FT Information

For a detailed description of the Independent Index, including its portfolio facility, phone 0851 1233. Calls cost 50p per minute. Call charges include VAT.

Source: FT Information

For a detailed description of the Independent Index, including its portfolio facility, phone 0851 1233. Calls cost 50p per minute. Call charges include VAT.

Source: FT Information

For a detailed description of the Independent Index, including its portfolio facility, phone 0851 1233. Calls cost 50p per minute. Call charges include VAT.

Source: FT Information

For a detailed description of the Independent Index, including its portfolio facility, phone 0851 1233. Calls cost 50p per minute. Call charges include VAT.

Source: FT Information

For a detailed description of the Independent Index, including its portfolio facility, phone 0851 1233. Calls cost 50p per minute. Call charges include VAT.

Source: FT Information

For a detailed description of the Independent Index, including its portfolio facility, phone 0851 1233. Calls cost 50p per minute. Call charges include VAT.

Source: FT Information

For a detailed description of the Independent Index, including its portfolio facility, phone 0851 1233. Calls cost 50p per minute. Call charges include VAT.

Source: FT Information

For a detailed description of the Independent Index, including its portfolio facility, phone 0851 1233. Calls cost 50p per minute. Call charges include VAT.

Source: FT Information

For a detailed description of the Independent Index, including its portfolio facility, phone 0851 1233. Calls cost 50p per minute. Call charges include VAT.

Source: FT Information

For a detailed description of the Independent Index, including its portfolio facility, phone 0851 1233. Calls cost 50p per minute. Call charges include VAT.

Source: FT Information

For a detailed description of the Independent Index, including its portfolio facility, phone 0851 1233. Calls cost 50p per minute. Call charges include VAT.

Source: FT Information

For a detailed description of the Independent Index, including its portfolio facility, phone 0851 1233. Calls cost 50p per minute. Call charges include VAT.

Source: FT Information

For a detailed description of the Independent Index, including its portfolio facility, phone 0851 1233. Calls cost 50p per minute. Call charges include VAT.

Source: FT Information

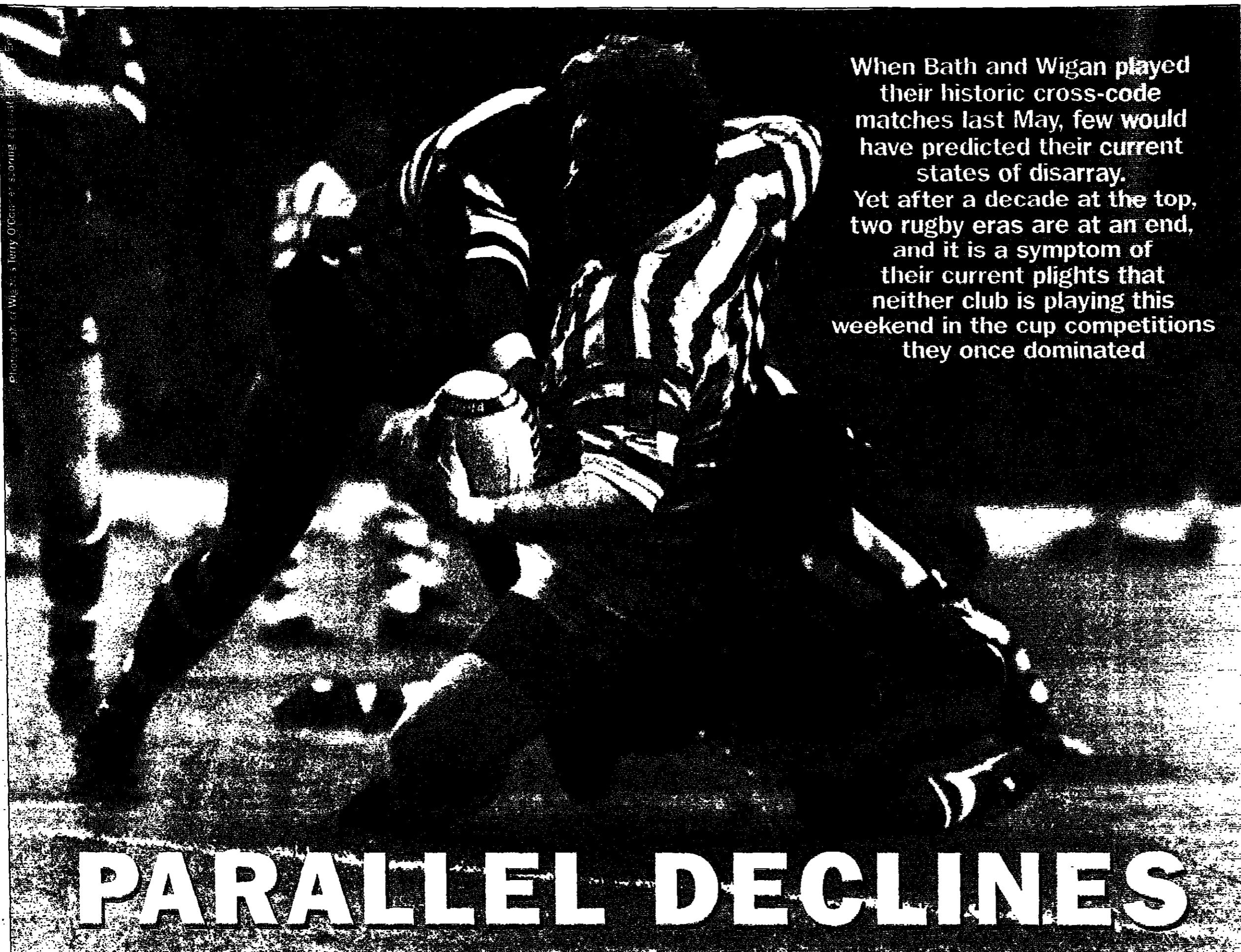
For a detailed description of the Independent Index, including its portfolio facility, phone 0851 1233. Calls cost 50p per minute. Call charges include VAT.

## Surge

## unit trusts

Foreign Exchange Rates											
STERLING		Country	Spot	1 month	3 months	DOLLAR	Spot	1 month	3 months	D-MARK	Spot
UK	GDP	1MTH	1.1	1.07	1.05	1000	0.893	0.88	0.87	1000	0.893
Canada	GDP	2MTH	1.1	1.07	1.05	1000	0.898	0.88	0.87	1000	0.898
Germany	GDP	3MTH	1.1	1.07	1.05	1000	0.898	0.88	0.87	1000	0.898
France	GDP	4MTH	1.1	1.07	1.05	1000	0.898	0.88	0.87	1000	0.898
Austria	GDP	5MTH	1.1	1.07	1.05	1000	0.898	0.88	0.87	1000	0.898
Ireland	GDP	6MTH	1.1	1.07	1.05	1000	0.898	0.88	0.87	1000	0.898
Norway	GDP	7MTH	1.1	1.07	1.05	1000	0.898	0.88	0.87	1000	0.898
Spain	GDP	8MTH	1.1	1.07	1.05	1000	0.898	0.88	0.87	1000	0.898
Sweden	GDP	9MTH	1.1	1.07	1.05	1000	0.898	0.88	0.87	1000	0.898
Switzerland	GDP	10MTH	1.1	1.07	1.05	1000	0.898	0.88	0.87	1000	0.898
Australia	GDP	11MTH	1.1	1.07	1.05	1000	0.898	0.88	0.87	1000	0.898
Hong Kong	GDP	12MTH	1.1	1.07	1.05	1000	0.898	0.88	0.87	1000	0.898
New Zealand	GDP	13MTH	1.1	1.07	1.05	1000	0.898	0.88	0.87	1000	0.898
Saudi Arabia	GDP	14MTH	1.1	1.07	1.05	1000	0.898	0.88	0.87	1000	0.898
Singapore	GDP	15MTH	1.1	1.07	1.05	1000	0.898	0.88	0.87	1000	0.898
OTHER SPOT RATES											
Country	Sterling	Dollar	Country	Sterling	Dollar	Country	Sterling	Dollar	Country	Sterling	Dollar
Argentina	1.0000	0.0250	Algeria	1.0000	0.0250	Angola	1.0000	0.0250	Antigua & Barbuda	1.0000	0.0250
Bolivia	1.0000	0.0250	Burkina Faso	1.0000	0.0250	Burundi	1.0000	0.0250	Cambodia	1.0000	0.0250
Chile	1.0000	0.0250	China	1.0000	0.0250	Colombia	1.0000	0.0250	Costa Rica	1.0000	0.0250
Egypt	1.0000	0.0250	Eritrea	1.0000	0.0250	Eswatini	1.0000	0.0250	Guatemala	1.0000	0.0250
Finland	1.0000	0.0250	Greece	1.0000	0.0250	Honduras	1.0000	0.0250	Iceland	1.0000	0.0250
Hungary	1.0000	0.0250	Iraq	1.0000	0.0250	Iran	1.0000	0.0250	Lebanon	1.0000	0.0250
Iceland	1.0000	0.0250	Jordan	1.0000	0.0250	Kazakhstan	1.0000	0.0250	Lithuania	1.0000	0.0250
Iraq	1.0000	0.0250	Latvia	1.0000	0.0250	Macedonia	1.0000	0.0250	Moldova	1.0000	0.0250
Lebanon	1.0000	0.0250	Mali	1.0000	0.0250	Mongolia	1.0000	0.0250	Poland	1.0000	0.0250
Lithuania	1.0000	0.0250	Niger	1.0000	0.0250	Nigeria	1.0000	0.0250	Romania	1.0000	0.0250
Moldova	1.0000	0.0250	Pakistan	1.0000	0.0250	Russia	1.0000	0.0250	Slovenia	1.0000	0.0250
Poland	1.0000	0.0250	Tunisia	1.0000	0.0250	Ukraine	1.0000	0.0250	Zambia	1.0000	0.0250
Tourist Rates											
1 Day	2 Days	3 Days	4 Days	5 Days	6 Days	7 Days	8 Days	9 Days	10 Days	11 Days	12 Days
Argentina (Dollars)	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000
Australia (Dollars)	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000
Belgium (Francs)	80000	80000	80000	80000	80000	80000	80000	80000	80000	80000	80000
Denmark (Kroner)	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000
Finland (Markka)	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000
France (Francs)	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000
Germany (Mark)	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000
Greece (Drachma)	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000
Iceland (Króna)	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000
Ireland (Pound)	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000
Italy (Lira)	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000
Japan (Yen)	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000
Malta (Liri)	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000
Netherlands (Guilder)	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000
Norway (Kroner)	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000
Portugal (Escudos)	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000
Spain (Peseta)	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000
Sweden (Krona)	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000
United Kingdom (Pound)	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000
Interest Rates											
1 Day	2 Days	3 Days	4 Days	5 Days	6 Days	7 Days	8 Days	9 Days	10 Days	11 Days	12 Days
UK Base	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%
Germany Discount	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%
France Discount	3.00%	3.00%	3.00%	3.00%	3.00%	3.00%	3.00%	3.00%	3.00%	3.00%	3.00%
Austria Discount	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%
Ireland Discount	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%
Netherlands Discount	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%
Sweden Discount	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%
United Kingdom Discount	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%
Bond Yields											
Country	5 yr	10 yr	30 yr	100 yr	1000 yr	Country	5 yr	10 yr	30 yr	100 yr	1000 yr
UK	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	Germany	2.50%	3.00%	3.50%	3.50%	3.50%
France	3.00%	3.00%	3.00%	3.00%	3.00%	Ireland	4.50%	5.00%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
International	3.00%	3.00%	3.00%	3.00%	3.00%	Canada	4.50%	5.00%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%</td

## sport



# PARALLEL DECLINES



**Chris Hewett on Bath**

I took Edward Gibbon six volumes to explain the decline and fall of Rome, and very nearly as much word power has been lavished on the demise of Bath as the most successful club side in world rugby contemplates life among the *hoi polloi*. The West Countrymen may yet end the season as English champions but whatever happens between now and the middle of May, a sense of loss will hang heavy over the Recreation Ground during a long summer of breast-beating and recrimination.

Bath's vocabulary of triumph, built up over a decade on the back of a fanatical pursuit of excellence, has never recognised any "L" word apart from loyalty, longing, leadership and might. Yet as they stumble towards the anti-climax of their first professional campaign, they are firm fixtures in the debit column, having relinquished their Pilkington Cup crown, squandered the services of a brilliant coach in Brian Ashton and, in almost apologetic fashion, sacrificed their director of John Hall.

Worse than that, they have lost the essential impulse, the life force, that made them great. It was called fear: fear of failure on the public stage, fear of the shame culture that held sway in the most caustic of dressing-rooms, fear of failing to cope with the peer pressure established by clever, waspish psychologists like Jack Rowell and Stuart Barnes.

Professionalism carries terrors of its own, but they are very different from the phobias let loose on The Rec during the dying days of amateurism. Rugby's currency used to be calculated in degrees of respect, as it was when Rowell's titans were dominating the market, but one indisputable by-product of the dash for cash is that players are now more concerned with protecting their salaries than their self-esteem. Why wear the hair shirt in Bath when big money and smart suits are on offer elsewhere?

"I can unhesitatingly say that my motivation was based on fear," says Gareth Chilcott, the front-row icon who went from rogue to elder statesman in the space of 15 years at Bath and is now a vice-president of the club. Irrespective of the fact that he was born in Bristol and now devotes at least part of his working week to his role as Gloucester's marketing manager, the mighty Cooch treasures the umbilical cord that links him to The Rec. He still cares, passionately.

"What you have to understand about Bath was that we were unique, both in terms of the players we had in the dressing-room and in the way those players effectively ran the club. We were unbelievably competitive and our pride dictated that no prisoners could be taken, either internally or amongst the opposition."

"We were a hard old lot, to be honest with you, and when I look at the current side, I sometimes wonder who, if anyone,

has the same will-power, the same ability to dig deep for his colleagues."

"When I think of the say we used to have on committee, I still feel amazed; in fact, I can't recall a single occasion when the players didn't get what they wanted. For instance, we were the first English side to regularly stay in a hotel on the Friday night before a big game."

Historically, teams travelled on the clubs, who had no time to prepare themselves for a complete change in the way they operated. In a way, the playing field became level again and the 10 per cent that Bath always had on their rivals was wiped away. Look at Quins. When we played them in my day, we always felt that their forwards were breakable, that they would disappear when we applied real pressure. Professionalism allowed them to go out and buy a pack, so they bought one.

"Some sides have bought well, others not so well. Bath felt last summer that they had a squad of players who could win them the Heineken Cup as well as the domestic double. By Christmas they realised they had bought in the wrong positions and had to go in search of some forwards. That was the nail in John Hall's coffin."

It should not be forgotten that but for Hall, a local product whose emergence as a world-class loose forward coincided with Bath's initial ascent of rugby's Olympus, the wheel might easily have parted from the wagon as long ago as last summer. Strangely enough, that was about the time the side were loading it with Wigan at Twickenham. Brownword had not come up with the readies at that stage and without Hall's pleadings and persuasions, many of the squad would have taken the money for a first nine years.

In retrospect, both men – while restricted by the terms of their respective severance agreements with the club from being openly critical – feel that their expedition across the great divide last May might have cost them the first Super League Championship.

In June they failed to cope with the spoiling tactics employed by the London Broncos at Central Park and were held to a 10-10 draw that ultimately cost them the title. Hopes rose again when they beat St Helens, but that victory was followed immediately by the departure of Scott Quinnell to Richmond.

This was another sign of radically changed times. A lot of work – his and that of the coaching staff – had gone into making Quinnell an effective rugby league forward. Now he was gone, with Wigan making no attempt to keep him, and West was deprived of one of his few alternatives in the front row.

The head-hunting of Quinnell symbolised a growing problem. League relished the recognition by a wider audience of the skills and athleticism of its players, but when the union clubs started waving their cheques books, it proved a double-edged sword for Wigan. Henry Paul, Jason Robinson, Gary Connolly and Vaiiga Tuigamala were all

Other teams – Harlequins, Wasps, Newcastle, Saracens and, via a slightly different route, Leicester – are equally competitive and as Chilcott says, the West Countrymen must now search for new means of attaining the supremacy their own generation came to regard as a birthright.

The professional game was foisted on the clubs, who had no time to prepare themselves for a complete change in the way they operated. In a way, the playing field became level again and the 10 per cent that Bath always had on their rivals was wiped away. Look at Quins. When we played them in my day, we always felt that their forwards were breakable, that they would disappear when we applied real pressure. Professionalism allowed them to go out and buy a pack, so they bought one.

"Some sides have bought well, others not so well. Bath felt last summer that they had a squad of players who could win them the Heineken Cup as well as the domestic double. By Christmas they realised they had bought in the wrong positions and had to go in search of some forwards. That was the nail in John Hall's coffin."

It should not be forgotten that but for Hall, a local product whose emergence as a world-class loose forward coincided with Bath's initial ascent of rugby's Olympus, the wheel might easily have parted from the wagon as long ago as last summer. Strangely enough, that was about the time the side were loading it with Wigan at Twickenham. Brownword had not come up with the readies at that stage and without Hall's pleadings and persuasions, many of the squad would have taken the money for a first nine years.

In retrospect, both men – while restricted by the terms of their respective severance agreements with the club from being openly critical – feel that their expedition across the great divide last May might have cost them the first Super League Championship.

In June they failed to cope with the spoiling tactics employed by the London Broncos at Central Park and were held to a 10-10 draw that ultimately cost them the title. Hopes rose again when they beat St Helens, but that victory was followed immediately by the departure of Scott Quinnell to Richmond.

This was another sign of radically changed times. A lot of work – his and that of the coaching staff – had gone into making Quinnell an effective rugby league forward. Now he was gone, with Wigan making no attempt to keep him, and West was deprived of one of his few alternatives in the front row.

The head-hunting of Quinnell symbolised a growing problem. League relished the recognition by a wider audience of the skills and athleticism of its players, but when the union clubs started waving their cheques books, it proved a double-edged sword for Wigan. Henry Paul, Jason Robinson, Gary Connolly and Vaiiga Tuigamala were all

**When Bath and Wigan played their historic cross-code matches last May, few would have predicted their current states of disarray.**

**Yet after a decade at the top, two rugby eras are at an end, and it is a symptom of their current plights that neither club is playing this weekend in the cup competitions they once dominated.**

## Dave Hadfield on Wigan



recruited for winter spells in rugby union, and Martin Offiah returned to the Home Counties in a joint deal that would see his services shared by Bedford and the Broncos.

The League could have intervened in that and other deals because Offiah, Paul and Tuigamala had all signed Super League loyalty contracts that allows News Limited to say where they can and cannot play. But Wigan were desperate for that clause not to be invoked. There was a simple reason for that: they saw in these loans, as well as in the permanent departures, a way to lighten a crippling wage bill.

Wigan's salary commitments to their players had probably been beyond their means since they first began to assemble a world-beating team in the mid-Eighties.

returned for the Cup tie against St Helens two weeks ago, they were either injured, stale or out of condition. Inevitably, Wigan went out of the Cup for the second year running.

The club had already lost one of its key off-field personnel. Lydon had left in December after 11 years at the club, by mutual agreement in the sense that Wigan did not offer him a new contract and Lydon, frustrated by not being allowed to manage, saw little point in being designated as the club's football manager.

That is one key role that remains vacant, and Wigan have also never appointed a chief executive – an omission for which they could have a proportion of their Murdoch pay-out withheld.

Those empty chairs are indicative of the areas in which Wigan are falling down on the job. For a club which has become the epitome of professionalism on the field, they are surprisingly amateurish off it. Clubs which made a success of the first season of Super League – such as St Helens and the Bradford Bulls – have invested heavily in their administration. Wigan are still run by a board of directors comprising, among others, bakers and furniture traders.

The controlling figure is Robinson, who is a fan by inclination and an antique dealer by occupation, and is widely seen as running the club as a hobby. Robinson, who faces criminal charges next month over a feud with a local newspaper, is a genuine enthusiast, but that will not save him from the scorn of the paying public if he is seen to be presiding over the disintegration of a great side.

Tuigamala has now gone, which sticks in the collective throat despite Wigan's desperate attempts to make it seem that it was all down to his determination to go. There are still players, the likes of Robinson, Connolly and Andy Farrell, who are the best in the British game in their positions, but there are others in the first-team squad who would never have been signed a few seasons ago.

West, as coach, has been made the scapegoat for defeats in the matches that mattered. Sales of season tickets are moving slowly. Further financial problems are building up which will not necessarily be solved by the proposed sale and lease-back of Central Park. There is no doubt that most Wigan fans are unhappy. Many have known nothing but success and they will swiftly withdraw their patronage if they are asked to pay to watch bad rugby or – even worse – losing rugby.

At Central Park, itself depressingly scruffy on three of its four sides, they complain about the impatience of the fans, but that to miss the point. They have never had to learn patience, and the bitterness of their disappointed expectations is the extra curse that comes when the mighty have fallen.

لماذا من الأصل

## Newcastle ready to repay outlay

**Chris Hewett**  
on likely upsets in rugby union's Pilkington Cup

The critics who have spent all season waiting for Sir John Hall's bank account to fall victim to spontaneous combustion will be on tenterhooks today when Newcastle, almost as awash with full internationals as they are with money, take on Leicester in what promises to be a compelling Pilkington Cup quarter-final tie at Kingsholm Park.

A comfortable victory for the visitors would reinforce a view popularly held in traditionalist circles that Sir John has bought nothing more than an expensive white elephant, but those with an anti-Hall axe to grind may have to wait for vindication. Newcastle are hardly confident of victory

but they are more than hopeful of justifying at least some of their owner's largesse.

Newcastle can boast two thirds of the 18 capped players on view – a remarkable state of affairs given that a full Courage League division still lies between the two clubs. Pat Lam, the shockingly hard Western Samoa captain, makes his cup debut at loose forward and the Geordies are further encouraged

### Smith leaves with harsh words for Hill

Ian Smith, the Scottish international flanker, yesterday criticised Richard Hill, the coaching director of Gloucester, as he completed his move to Moseley, the National League Two club.

Smith, 31, ending a 14-year association with the club, complained he had been forced into the move after being largely ignored by Hill this season. "This move is down to the way Hill has treated me," Smith said. "It was inevitable that I would go given the treatment I've received at the club this year."

Despite his international status – he has been included in the preliminary Lions squad – Smith has played only nine first team games for Gloucester this season.

Smith was also wanted by Bristol and Harlequins, but decided Moseley fitted best with his work and family commitments. "Before deciding to go there I checked with management figures in the Scottish Rugby Union to get their opinions and I took their advice."

Orrell were also in a critical mood. The Courage League One club were angry over Newcastle's failure to fulfil a second

team fixture today because they could not raise a side. "They can spend £1m on Valencia immigrants but they can't raise a second team," Geoff Lightfoot, an Orrell spokesman said.

Meanwhile, Orrell are considering seeking a court order to prevent Franco Botica, the former All Black, playing for Llanelli Botica moved from Orrell to Llanelli earlier this season but the Lancashire club claim the Welsh side have refused on instalment payments.

Stuart Gaffachan, the Llanelli chairman, confirmed a writ demanding payment of more than £30,000 had been issued against the club earlier this month. He said: "We are taking legal advice and hope than an agreement can soon be reached."

Joel Viteyaki, the Fiji captain, has been told he must leave Dunvant to honour a contract in New Zealand. Viteyaki made his debut two weeks ago against Swansbury but All Black Promotions Ltd, an off-shoot of the New Zealand Rugby Union, have insisted that the player is contracted to them.

Dunvant claim the huge sum had received a verbal clearance and have called on the Welsh club a last time the Cheshire club lost a match.

In today's other tie, Gloucester restore Phil Greening to their front row for the game at Wakefield, the rank outsiders.

Tomorrow, Harlequins and Saracens complete the weekend's cup business with a London derby at The Stoop.



Alexei Prokhorov, of Russia, drives himself on towards victory in the first ever staging of the 30km cross-country freestyle race at the Nordic Ski World Championships in Trondheim yesterday

## Paul wants to play fast game

**Rugby League**

DAVE HADFIELD

Robbie Paul returns this afternoon to the ground where he spent much of his winter, and hopes to find it as he left.

The Bradford Bulls captain, who played for Harlequins during the close season, is back at The Stoop for the Silk Cut Challenge Cup fifth-round tie against London Broncos, who now share the ground. Paul, a dazzling top-of-the-ground runner who won the Lance Todd Trophy last April by scoring the first hat-trick in a Wembley final, hopes reports of The Stoop's deterioration since he left have been exaggerated.

If it is a mud heap, London can be expected to try to turn the tie of the round into a forward battle, although the Bulls coach Matthew Elliott will not willingly co-operate. "When you've got backs like ours, you don't want them standing around with their hands on their hips."

Those backs include the most significant signing of Bradford's winter, the experienced Australian Danny Peacock, who will play in the centres. He was man of the match with two tries at Hunslet in the last round. The Bulls also include two players signed too late for last year's final, Stuart Spruce and Steve McNamara, though Spruce is doubtful after a chest infection.

Another Australian, Graeme Bradley, believes Bradford are far better placed than at this

stage last year, when they were still in a state of transition. That is ominous for London, who this week had the publicity boost of Richard Branson taking a 15 per cent shareholding in the club.

Of more immediate importance today will be how well their new Australian recruits fill the void left by some significant departures. The former Wests and Illawarra scrum-half Josh White has a tougher act to follow than most as Broncos had a choice between two contrasting exponents of that role last year in Kevin Langer and Leo Dynevor. He could not face a more elusive opponent than Paul, who, he points out, was never on the losing side when he started a match for the Quins at The Stoop.

For all the pack mentality that they are expected to adopt, London have strength in their back-line. If they can leave out Greg Barwick in favour of a centre partnership of Paul Smith, just arrived from Sydney City, and David Krause, it says much for the options available to them.

The pick of tomorrow's games are at Salford, where Paris are the unpredictable visitors, and at Warrington, where Jason Harris will make his first-team return against Sheffield Eagles. Harris, embroiled in a long dispute with the club, came through a reserve team outing on Thursday, scoring a try and setting one up with what John Doherty called "a typical piece of magic". He is likely to start on the bench, with Martin Dermott making his Warrington debut at hooker.

## Blundell back on track after a pair of close calls

**Motor racing**

DERICK ALLSOP

Britain's Mark Blundell heads for the US and another season of IndyCars next week, carrying the sort of baggage racing drivers are not supposed to declare.

"I must admit I don't know how I'll react when I get back on that particular track," he said from the sanctuary of a French restaurant by the Thames in London yesterday. "That is going to be hard, very hard."

The particular track in ques-

tion is an oval at Homestead, Florida, where two weeks ago the 30-year-old's car careered out of control at almost 200mph and crashed heavily. He has tested since elsewhere and has little more than aches and pains to show for the ordeal.

He did, however, sustain more mental scars to add to those from a big accident in Rio last March.

Trepidation is one thing, gnawing fear quite another.

"It is a worry when you have two big ones in less than a year, even though you know neither was your own fault, and you start

to wonder how many more you can get away with," he said. "The team thought I would have died in that crash at Homestead. I thought I was going to die in Rio."

Blundell, squeezed out of

the competitive equation in

Formula One at the end of 1995,

had a couple of fifth places to

show for his endeavours and

anxiety last season. He is driven on this year by the continuing lack of better opportunities in grand prix racing, the prospect of improved results with the PacWest team.

"I can't help feel Formula

One is pushing the self-destruct

button. The concept is glamorous, but it's all the peripheral stuff that really attracts the people, not the racing."

For all that, Blundell would return Formula One given the chance of driving that elusive competitive car. He said: "I still believe I could do it given the equipment I'm only 30 and even in the cars I've had I've scored points in about half my races."

"Maybe that opportunity will come, who knows? But for now I'm focused on what I have to do this year and it's up to me to make the best of it."

THE INDEPENDENT INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY READER OFFER

## Eurostar Paris hotel break from just £79



**The Independent and Independent On Sunday in association with Eurostar and Driveline Europe have arranged this special spring time in Paris offer. Travel in style and comfort on the Eurostar passenger train service and spend one night in a Paris hotel for as little as £79.00 per person, or two nights for £99.00 per person.**

Spring is nearly here, and what better way to shake off the winter blues than with a trip to Paris. Whether you want to shop, dine, nightclub, go sightseeing or simply take your time and relax, Paris is the perfect destination. Now, because of our special Springtime in Paris offer, you can go for a fraction of the price you would normally pay. All things considered, wouldn't you rather be in Paris?

**There is no need to collect tokens, simply call Driveline Europe to book.**

The offer is valid for travel from the 28 February to 30 April (excluding the Easter period 22-31 March '97)

### How to Book

There is no need to collect tokens, simply telephone Driveline on 01707 660011 quoting The Independent/Eurostar promotion. Please have ready your approximate departure/return times. There is approximately one train an hour during normal travelling times. Payment can be made by cheque, Switch, Delta, Connect, Access or Visa. No Cheques for departures within 14 days of booking. Travel insurance is available at the special price of £10 p.p. Booking request must be received by Driveline at least 4 working days in advance of the requested date of



### Travel and Accommodation

Departing from either London Waterloo International or the new Ashford International station in Kent and arriving at Paris Gare du Nord. You have a choice to stay in one of three 2-star Campanile hotels. Each per person charge includes a return Standard Class Eurostar ticket from London Waterloo International or Ashford International to Paris and is based on 2 people sharing a twin or double room. Breaks start at £79.00 p.p. including one night, each extra night's accommodation is just £20.00 p.p. You may also upgrade to a 3 star hotel at an added cost starting at £20, with extra nights only £40.

### Choose From Three 2 Star Campanile Hotels

**Campanile Louis Blanc** is conveniently located less than ten minutes walk (or a short taxi drive) from the Gare du Nord. All rooms are comfortably furnished with private facilities, channel TV and a courtesy tray with tea, coffee and biscuits. There is a breakfast room and bar and the centre of Paris is approximately 15 minutes by metro.

**Campanile Basille** by Place de la Bastille is located in the centre of Paris, close to the historic Marais quarter and the Place des Vosges, with its arcades, antique shops and galleries. There are two metro lines close to the hotel, one which goes directly to Gare du Nord (line 5, Breguet-Sabin station). Hotel facilities include small garden, fully equipped bedrooms and breakfast room.

**Campanile Italie-Gobelins** is on the left bank at 'Place d'Italie' and within walking distance of the Latin quarter with its lively restaurant and bars. The metro is close by and on the direct line from Gare du Nord. The hotel offers a warm and modern atmosphere with full private facilities in the rooms, cable TV and a buffet breakfast room.

### Upgrading your hotel

To upgrade your hotel the three star **Trianon Rive Gauche\*\*\*** is also available at just £99 p.p. during March and £105 pp during April for one night on a Bed & Breakfast basis. Extra nights are only £40 p.p. This hotel offers a prime location next to the beautiful Jardin du Luxembourg and the famous Sorbonne. It is just 15 minutes from Notre Dame on foot. Direct RER from Gare du Nord. The price includes continental breakfast.

### Weekend Travel

For outward and/or return travel on a Friday, Saturday or Sunday add £15 per person. Child prices on request.

### Driveline Europe

Driveline is an established direct sell tour operator, specialising in short break holidays to France. By specialising in this field they offer their clients excellent value for money and a wide and varied choice of destinations and hotels. Telephone 01707 660011 to book. In accordance with the Package Travel, Package Holidays and Package Tours regulation (1992), Driveline Europe Ltd operates a Clients Trustee account whereby all monies paid to them by clients are held in a separate bank account until the contract has been fully performed, i.e. the return date as confirmed by Driveline has passed.

will require a valid EC passport and any necessary visas. Tickets for Eurostar train services are issued subject to the conditions set out in EPS's Conditions of Carriage, copies of which are available on request. Readers should be aware that no changes or amendments are permitted with this offer. Lost or stolen tickets are non-refundable. Eurostar check in closes 20 minutes prior to departure - please allow plenty of time. This offer cannot be combined with any other offer. The offer is valid for minimum of two adults sharing a room. Paris tourist tax is approximately FF6 p.p. per day. At all times check your tickets carefully.

## sport

# Livingston keen to face the music

Call it *son et lumière*, or call it *Gladiators*, but tomorrow's Bupa Indoor Games in Birmingham will be getting the full treatment.

Leading competitors such as Merlene Ottey, Bruny Surin and Vébjorn Rodal, within these shores for the concluding event of the lucrative Ricoh indoor tour, will be introduced to the National Indoor Arena crowd with personalised theme tunes and will compete in a dramatically spotlit environment.

This initiative from the British Athletic Federation is an attempt, literally, to highlight the key parts of a meeting which involves numerous past and present Olympic and world champions.

Dramatic lighting is most likely to be complemented in terms of action over 90 metres, where Britain's world trials winner Jason Livingston, back into his stride after a four-year drug ban, faces a daunting field.

Livingston, who seeks his first medal since 1992 at the world indoor championships in Paris from 7 to 9 March, will be able to measure his form against the current Olympic 100 and 200m bronze medallists Ato Boldon, as well as Surin, the Canadian who is going for a third consecutive world 60m title next month, and two of the leading Americans, Dennis Mitchell and Jon Drummond.

Two others, Deji Aliu of Nigeria and Ray Stewart of Jamaica, are also higher in the rankings than Livingston, whose best this year is 6.55sec. The fastest man in the field, Surin, has run 6.1sec faster than that, the third quickest recorded.

That event is likely to provide

### Mike Rowbottom says the Bupa Games will not lack for glitz and style

Hawkins, the American who took the world indoor silver in 1995 and who defeated Jackson over 110m hurdles when they last met in Rome.

For two of the highest profile athletes tomorrow, the tasks appear relatively undemanding in terms of rivals. Merlene Ottey, making what may well be her last indoor appearance in this country, is a clear favourite in the women's 60m.

Ottey, 36, is the reigning world indoor champion at the distance, and has won 45 major championship medals in a career stretching back 17 years.

She won the same event at this meeting four years ago in 7.12sec, and has a personal best of 6.96, close to Irina Privalova's world record of 6.92.

Vébjorn Rodal, Norway's Olympic 800m champion is said to be making an attempt on the world indoor record for the world indoor record for his distance.

Sally Gunnell, a more familiar face at the NIA, will maintain her comeback from the Achilles tendon injury which ruined her Olympic defence with another appearance over 400m. Gunnell – whose theme tune for the athletes introduction will be "Every Little Thing She Does Is Magic" – will be hoping to live up to her billing against her domestic rival Phyllis Smith, who defeated her with a bold performance in the world indoor trials.

Smith, who came close to Gunnell's British indoor record of 51.72sec, could go even faster tomorrow. "I'm not definitely saying I will break the record but this is very strong field and it will push us all to good times," Smith said.

Meanwhile Baulch's coach, Colin Jackson, who can the world and Olympic high hurdles champion Allen Johnson desperately close in Liévin last weekend, will attempt to sharpen up for an attempt on the world indoor title against a field which includes Tranel

and Hawkins.

Johnson, who has

been beaten in the 110m by Surin, the Cuban whose recent indoor mark has only been bettered by Carl Lewis, against a field in which five others have also cleared eight metres. In the 400m, Britain's Jamie Baulch has the opportunity to confirm his standing as favourite for the world indoor title by securing what would be a fourth successive victory over the reigning champion, Darnell Hall of the United States.

Bach, who lowered the British indoor record to 45.39sec at the world indoor trials as a fortnight ago, wisely decided to give Thursday night's Ricoh tour meeting in Stockholm a miss after seeing his form diminish slightly in the intervening time, he should have recovered sufficient energy to secure a victory which would see him £12,000 within the tour prize money system and the biggest pay day of his career.

Meanwhile Baulch's coach, Colin Jackson, who can the world and Olympic high hurdles champion Allen Johnson desperately close in Liévin last weekend, will attempt to sharpen up for an attempt on the world indoor title against a field which includes Tranel

and Hawkins.

Johnson, who has

been beaten in the 110m by Surin, the Cuban whose recent indoor mark has only been bettered by Carl Lewis, against a field in which five others have also cleared eight metres. In the 400m, Britain's Jamie Baulch has the opportunity to confirm his standing as favourite for the world indoor title by securing what would be a fourth successive victory over the reigning champion, Darnell Hall of the United States.

Bach, who lowered the British indoor record to 45.39sec at the world indoor trials as a fortnight ago, wisely decided to give Thursday night's Ricoh tour meeting in Stockholm a miss after seeing his form diminish slightly in the intervening time, he should have recovered sufficient energy to secure a victory which would see him £12,000 within the tour prize money system and the biggest pay day of his career.

Meanwhile Baulch's coach, Colin Jackson, who can the world and Olympic high hurdles champion Allen Johnson desperately close in Liévin last weekend, will attempt to sharpen up for an attempt on the world indoor title against a field which includes Tranel

and Hawkins.

Johnson, who has

been beaten in the 110m by Surin, the Cuban whose recent indoor mark has only been bettered by Carl Lewis, against a field in which five others have also cleared eight metres. In the 400m, Britain's Jamie Baulch has the opportunity to confirm his standing as favourite for the world indoor title by securing what would be a fourth successive victory over the reigning champion, Darnell Hall of the United States.

Bach, who lowered the British indoor record to 45.39sec at the world indoor trials as a fortnight ago, wisely decided to give Thursday night's Ricoh tour meeting in Stockholm a miss after seeing his form diminish slightly in the intervening time, he should have recovered sufficient energy to secure a victory which would see him £12,000 within the tour prize money system and the biggest pay day of his career.

Meanwhile Baulch's coach, Colin Jackson, who can the world and Olympic high hurdles champion Allen Johnson desperately close in Liévin last weekend, will attempt to sharpen up for an attempt on the world indoor title against a field which includes Tranel

and Hawkins.

Johnson, who has

been beaten in the 110m by Surin, the Cuban whose recent indoor mark has only been bettered by Carl Lewis, against a field in which five others have also cleared eight metres. In the 400m, Britain's Jamie Baulch has the opportunity to confirm his standing as favourite for the world indoor title by securing what would be a fourth successive victory over the reigning champion, Darnell Hall of the United States.

Bach, who lowered the British indoor record to 45.39sec at the world indoor trials as a fortnight ago, wisely decided to give Thursday night's Ricoh tour meeting in Stockholm a miss after seeing his form diminish slightly in the intervening time, he should have recovered sufficient energy to secure a victory which would see him £12,000 within the tour prize money system and the biggest pay day of his career.

Meanwhile Baulch's coach, Colin Jackson, who can the world and Olympic high hurdles champion Allen Johnson desperately close in Liévin last weekend, will attempt to sharpen up for an attempt on the world indoor title against a field which includes Tranel

and Hawkins.

Johnson, who has

been beaten in the 110m by Surin, the Cuban whose recent indoor mark has only been bettered by Carl Lewis, against a field in which five others have also cleared eight metres. In the 400m, Britain's Jamie Baulch has the opportunity to confirm his standing as favourite for the world indoor title by securing what would be a fourth successive victory over the reigning champion, Darnell Hall of the United States.

Bach, who lowered the British indoor record to 45.39sec at the world indoor trials as a fortnight ago, wisely decided to give Thursday night's Ricoh tour meeting in Stockholm a miss after seeing his form diminish slightly in the intervening time, he should have recovered sufficient energy to secure a victory which would see him £12,000 within the tour prize money system and the biggest pay day of his career.

Meanwhile Baulch's coach, Colin Jackson, who can the world and Olympic high hurdles champion Allen Johnson desperately close in Liévin last weekend, will attempt to sharpen up for an attempt on the world indoor title against a field which includes Tranel

and Hawkins.

Johnson, who has

been beaten in the 110m by Surin, the Cuban whose recent indoor mark has only been bettered by Carl Lewis, against a field in which five others have also cleared eight metres. In the 400m, Britain's Jamie Baulch has the opportunity to confirm his standing as favourite for the world indoor title by securing what would be a fourth successive victory over the reigning champion, Darnell Hall of the United States.

Bach, who lowered the British indoor record to 45.39sec at the world indoor trials as a fortnight ago, wisely decided to give Thursday night's Ricoh tour meeting in Stockholm a miss after seeing his form diminish slightly in the intervening time, he should have recovered sufficient energy to secure a victory which would see him £12,000 within the tour prize money system and the biggest pay day of his career.

Meanwhile Baulch's coach, Colin Jackson, who can the world and Olympic high hurdles champion Allen Johnson desperately close in Liévin last weekend, will attempt to sharpen up for an attempt on the world indoor title against a field which includes Tranel

and Hawkins.

Johnson, who has

been beaten in the 110m by Surin, the Cuban whose recent indoor mark has only been bettered by Carl Lewis, against a field in which five others have also cleared eight metres. In the 400m, Britain's Jamie Baulch has the opportunity to confirm his standing as favourite for the world indoor title by securing what would be a fourth successive victory over the reigning champion, Darnell Hall of the United States.

Bach, who lowered the British indoor record to 45.39sec at the world indoor trials as a fortnight ago, wisely decided to give Thursday night's Ricoh tour meeting in Stockholm a miss after seeing his form diminish slightly in the intervening time, he should have recovered sufficient energy to secure a victory which would see him £12,000 within the tour prize money system and the biggest pay day of his career.

Meanwhile Baulch's coach, Colin Jackson, who can the world and Olympic high hurdles champion Allen Johnson desperately close in Liévin last weekend, will attempt to sharpen up for an attempt on the world indoor title against a field which includes Tranel

and Hawkins.

Johnson, who has

been beaten in the 110m by Surin, the Cuban whose recent indoor mark has only been bettered by Carl Lewis, against a field in which five others have also cleared eight metres. In the 400m, Britain's Jamie Baulch has the opportunity to confirm his standing as favourite for the world indoor title by securing what would be a fourth successive victory over the reigning champion, Darnell Hall of the United States.

Bach, who lowered the British indoor record to 45.39sec at the world indoor trials as a fortnight ago, wisely decided to give Thursday night's Ricoh tour meeting in Stockholm a miss after seeing his form diminish slightly in the intervening time, he should have recovered sufficient energy to secure a victory which would see him £12,000 within the tour prize money system and the biggest pay day of his career.

Meanwhile Baulch's coach, Colin Jackson, who can the world and Olympic high hurdles champion Allen Johnson desperately close in Liévin last weekend, will attempt to sharpen up for an attempt on the world indoor title against a field which includes Tranel

and Hawkins.

Johnson, who has

been beaten in the 110m by Surin, the Cuban whose recent indoor mark has only been bettered by Carl Lewis, against a field in which five others have also cleared eight metres. In the 400m, Britain's Jamie Baulch has the opportunity to confirm his standing as favourite for the world indoor title by securing what would be a fourth successive victory over the reigning champion, Darnell Hall of the United States.

Bach, who lowered the British indoor record to 45.39sec at the world indoor trials as a fortnight ago, wisely decided to give Thursday night's Ricoh tour meeting in Stockholm a miss after seeing his form diminish slightly in the intervening time, he should have recovered sufficient energy to secure a victory which would see him £12,000 within the tour prize money system and the biggest pay day of his career.

Meanwhile Baulch's coach, Colin Jackson, who can the world and Olympic high hurdles champion Allen Johnson desperately close in Liévin last weekend, will attempt to sharpen up for an attempt on the world indoor title against a field which includes Tranel

and Hawkins.

Johnson, who has

been beaten in the 110m by Surin, the Cuban whose recent indoor mark has only been bettered by Carl Lewis, against a field in which five others have also cleared eight metres. In the 400m, Britain's Jamie Baulch has the opportunity to confirm his standing as favourite for the world indoor title by securing what would be a fourth successive victory over the reigning champion, Darnell Hall of the United States.

Bach, who lowered the British indoor record to 45.39sec at the world indoor trials as a fortnight ago, wisely decided to give Thursday night's Ricoh tour meeting in Stockholm a miss after seeing his form diminish slightly in the intervening time, he should have recovered sufficient energy to secure a victory which would see him £12,000 within the tour prize money system and the biggest pay day of his career.

Meanwhile Baulch's coach, Colin Jackson, who can the world and Olympic high hurdles champion Allen Johnson desperately close in Liévin last weekend, will attempt to sharpen up for an attempt on the world indoor title against a field which includes Tranel

and Hawkins.

Johnson, who has

been beaten in the 110m by Surin, the Cuban whose recent indoor mark has only been bettered by Carl Lewis, against a field in which five others have also cleared eight metres. In the 400m, Britain's Jamie Baulch has the opportunity to confirm his standing as favourite for the world indoor title by securing what would be a fourth successive victory over the reigning champion, Darnell Hall of the United States.

Bach, who lowered the British indoor record to 45.39sec at the world indoor trials as a fortnight ago, wisely decided to give Thursday night's Ricoh tour meeting in Stockholm a miss after seeing his form diminish slightly in the intervening time, he should have recovered sufficient energy to secure a victory which would see him £12,000 within the tour prize money system and the biggest pay day of his career.

Meanwhile Baulch's coach, Colin Jackson, who can the world and Olympic high hurdles champion Allen Johnson desperately close in Liévin last weekend, will attempt to sharpen up for an attempt on the world indoor title against a field which includes Tranel

and Hawkins.

Johnson, who has

been beaten in the 110m by Surin, the Cuban whose recent indoor mark has only been bettered by Carl Lewis, against a field in which five others have also cleared eight metres. In the 400m, Britain's Jamie Baulch has the opportunity to confirm his standing as favourite for the world indoor title by securing what would be a fourth successive victory over the reigning champion, Darnell Hall of the United States.

Bach, who lowered the British indoor record to 45.39sec at the world indoor trials as a fortnight ago, wisely decided to give Thursday night's Ricoh tour meeting in Stockholm a miss after seeing his form diminish slightly in the intervening time, he should have recovered sufficient energy to secure a victory which would see him £12,000 within the tour prize money system and the biggest pay day of his career.

Meanwhile Baulch's coach, Colin Jackson, who can the world and Olympic high hurdles champion Allen Johnson desperately close in Liévin last weekend, will attempt to sharpen up for an attempt on the world indoor title against a field which includes Tranel

and Hawkins.

Johnson, who has

been beaten in the 110m by Surin, the Cuban whose recent indoor mark has only been bettered by Carl Lewis, against a field in which five others have also cleared eight metres. In the 400m, Britain's Jamie Baulch has the opportunity to confirm his standing as favourite for the world indoor title by securing what would be a fourth successive victory over the reigning champion, Darnell Hall of the United States.

Bach, who lowered the British indoor record to 45.39sec at the world indoor trials as a fortnight ago, wisely decided to give Thursday night's Ricoh tour meeting in Stockholm a miss after seeing his form diminish slightly in the intervening time, he should have recovered sufficient energy to secure a victory which would see him £12,000 within the tour prize money system and the biggest pay day of his career.

Meanwhile Baulch's coach, Colin Jackson, who can the world and Olympic high hurdles champion Allen Johnson desperately close in Liévin last weekend, will attempt to sharpen up for an attempt on the world indoor title against a field which includes Tranel

and Hawkins.

Johnson, who has

been beaten in the 110m by Surin, the Cuban whose recent indoor mark has only been bettered by Carl Lewis, against a field in which five others have also cleared eight metres. In the 400m, Britain's Jamie Baulch has the opportunity to confirm his standing as favourite for the world indoor title by securing what would be a fourth successive victory over the reigning champion, Darnell Hall of the United States.

Bach, who lowered the British indoor record to 45.39sec at the world indoor trials as a fortnight ago, wisely decided to give Thursday night's Ricoh tour meeting in Stockholm a miss after seeing his form diminish slightly in the intervening time, he should have recovered sufficient energy to secure a victory which would see him £12,000 within the tour prize money system and the biggest pay day of his career.

Meanwhile Baulch's coach, Colin Jackson, who can the world and Olympic high hurdles champion Allen Johnson desperately close in Liévin last weekend, will attempt to sharpen up for an attempt on the world indoor title against a field which includes Tranel

and Hawkins.

Johnson, who has

been beaten in the 110m by Surin, the Cuban whose recent indoor mark has only been bettered by Carl Lewis, against a field in which five others have also cleared eight metres. In the 400m, Britain's Jamie Baulch has the opportunity to confirm his standing as favourite for the world indoor title by securing what would be a fourth successive victory over the reigning champion, Darnell Hall of the United States.

Bach, who lowered the British indoor record to 45.39sec at the world indoor trials as a fortnight ago, wisely decided to give Thursday night's Ricoh tour meeting in Stockholm a miss after seeing his form diminish slightly in the intervening time, he should have recovered sufficient energy to secure a victory which would see him £12,000 within the tour prize money system and the biggest pay day of his career.

Meanwhile Baulch's coach, Colin Jackson, who can the world and Olympic high hurdles champion Allen Johnson desperately close in Liévin last weekend, will attempt to sharpen up for an attempt on the world indoor title against a field which includes Tranel

and Hawkins.

Johnson, who has

been beaten in the 110m by Surin, the Cuban whose recent indoor mark has only been bettered by Carl Lewis, against a field in which five others have also cleared eight metres. In the 400m, Britain's Jamie Baulch has the opportunity to confirm his standing as favourite for the world indoor title by securing what would be a fourth successive victory over the reigning champion, Darnell Hall of the United States.

Bach, who lowered the British indoor record to 45.39sec at

most warm  
his record  
chievement

## Mistinguett can hit right note

### Racing

GREG WOOD

One of the great attractions of racing is that it takes place 12 months a year, so there is always something to look forward to, and today's cards at Kempton and Haydock offer a reminder that even on that awful Friday morning in March when you realise that there are 362 days to go to the next Cheltenham Festival, the compensation is that the Grand National meeting at Aintree is much closer to hand.

Since it is barely a fortnight until the festivities begin in the Cotswolds, today's meetings are the last stopping-off point for prospective champions. For those whose ambitions lie in Liverpool, however, this is the ideal moment to bring a runner that much closer to peak fitness, and since horses which go to Aintree as an afterthought to Cheltenham tend to disappoint, today's action is worth committing to long-term memory.

Six runners quoted at 25-1 or less for the Grand National by

William Hill will be on the track today, including both of the firm's 12-1 joint second-favourites, Encore Un Peu and Lo Stregone, though sadly for ante-post punters, they are not in opposition. Encore Un Peu, the runner-up to Rough Quest at Aintree last season, makes his seasonal debut in the Racing Post Chase at Kempton, while Lo Stregone, a last-minute absentee when strongly fancied for last year's National, attempts to repeat last year's victory in the Greensills Grand National Trial at Haydock.

Though last year's was big, it was hardly vintage. Today,

it is the latter contest, with £80,000 in added prize-money, which must be viewed as the event of the day, and since Lo Stregone is running off the same handicap mark as he did when beating Tartan Tyrant by five lengths 12 months ago, it is little surprise to find him favourite this morning at around 2-1. The ground too is almost as soft as it was last year, but one difference which may find Lo Stregone out is the overall quality of his opponents.

After his brave win under top weight in a very competitive Thistles Chase in Ireland last time, Could Be Better must be respected, but it is Belmont King (2-5) who appeals as the value. Paul Nicholls's chaser was outclassed behind Danoli and Jodam at Leopardstown three weeks ago, but his earlier win in the Rehearsal Chase at Chepstow indicated that today's trip and going should bring out the best in him.

The previous race at Haydock sees the latest outing for Juslyn, who has done little wrong in three runs over hurdles, but is far from the serious Champion Hurdle contender which ante-post odds imply. Backers should exploit the hype which surrounds him and take the chance to back MUSTINGUETT (nap 2-15). Though only fourth to Make A Stand in the Tote Gold Trophy, Nigel Twiston-Davies's mare was unable to dominate there, and should benefit from a return to front-running today. Only a cynic would suggest that David Nicholson's decision to run three horses in the Racing Post Chase owes anything to his employment as a columnist with the sponsors, but his jottings will certainly merit attention today since his trio occupy three of the first four slots in the betting. Call It A Day, the chosen mount of Arctic Maguire, is the obvious pick, but it is another of Nicholls's runners, See More Business (4-10) that they all have to beat.

Though still a novice, See More Business has shown enough in defeat by Dorans to this year to imply that, even off second-top weight, this is within his reach. Land Afar (3-00) and the rather ominously-named Grief (3-35) must also go well, while Arctic Maguire, despite a recent mishap, still merits a penny or two of support against the former champion two-miler, Viking Flagship.

**Hill the warm order for Cheltenham**

Coome Hill was in demand with punters for the Cheltenham Gold Cup yesterday following his victory in the Jim Ford Chase at Wincanton on Thursday. Walter Dennis's gelding, who beat Unguided Missile by a length and a quarter, is now 6-1 joint-third favourite for the Cheltenham race with Ladbrokes, from 7-1. The same firm have lengthened the prices of Danoli, out to 6-1 from 11-2, and Dublin Flyer (9-1 from 8-1).

"Given his style of racing, connections will surely make certain that the race is a true test of stamina," Ian Wessell, Ladbrokes spokesman, said. "That will further stretch unproven stayers such as One Man, Addington Boy and even Danoli."

Cheltenham Gold Cup (13 March) Ladbrokes 2-1; Imperial Colt 5-1; Dorset Pride 6-1; Danoli (from 11-2); Coome Hill (from 7-1); Dublin Flyer, 10-1; One Man, 12-1; The Very Monty, 14-1; Addington Boy, 15-1; Grief, 16-1; Land Afar, 18-1; Unguided Missile, 20-1; Danoli, 25-1; others.

Each-way a quarter the odds, places 1, 2, 3.

### High price for Bounce

Buckboard Bounce is a top-priced 10-1 with William Hill and Ladbrokes - Coral go 7-1 in the Greensills National Trial Handicap Chase at Haydock

(2-45), while Percy Smollett is 6-1 with William Hill and the Tote - Coral go 9-2 in the Racing Post Handicap Chase at Kempton (4-10). Ian Davies

It is the latter contest, with £80,000 in added prize-money, which must be viewed as the event of the day, and since Lo Stregone is running off the same handicap mark as he did when beating Tartan Tyrant by five lengths 12 months ago, it is little surprise to find him favourite this morning at around 2-1. The ground too is almost as soft as it was last year, but one difference which may find Lo Stregone out is the overall quality of his opponents.

Though last year's was big, it was hardly vintage. Today,

it is the latter contest, with £80,000 in added prize-money, which must be viewed as the event of the day, and since Lo Stregone is running off the same handicap mark as he did when beating Tartan Tyrant by five lengths 12 months ago, it is little surprise to find him favourite this morning at around 2-1. The ground too is almost as soft as it was last year, but one difference which may find Lo Stregone out is the overall quality of his opponents.

After his brave win under top weight in a very competitive Thistles Chase in Ireland last time, Could Be Better must be respected, but it is Belmont King (2-5) who appeals as the value. Paul Nicholls's chaser was outclassed behind Danoli and Jodam at Leopardstown three weeks ago, but his earlier win in the Rehearsal Chase at Chepstow indicated that today's trip and going should bring out the best in him.

The previous race at Haydock sees the latest outing for Juslyn, who has done little wrong in three runs over hurdles, but is far from the serious Champion Hurdle contender which ante-post odds imply. Backers should exploit the hype which surrounds him and take the chance to back MUSTINGUETT (nap 2-15). Though only fourth to

Make A Stand in the Tote Gold

Trophy, Nigel Twiston-Davies's mare was unable to dominate there, and should benefit from a return to front-running today. Only a cynic would suggest that David Nicholson's decision to run three horses in the Racing Post Chase owes anything to his employment as a columnist with the sponsors, but his jottings will certainly merit attention today since his trio occupy three of the first four slots in the betting. Call It A Day, the chosen mount of Arctic Maguire, is the obvious pick, but it is another of Nicholls's runners, See More Business (4-10) that they all have to beat.

Though still a novice, See More Business has shown enough in defeat by Dorans to this year to imply that, even off second-top weight, this is within his reach. Land Afar (3-00) and the rather ominously-named Grief (3-35) must also go well, while Arctic Maguire, despite a recent mishap, still merits a penny or two of support against the former champion two-miler, Viking Flagship.

**Hill the warm order for Cheltenham**

Coome Hill was in demand with punters for the Cheltenham Gold Cup yesterday following his victory in the Jim Ford Chase at Wincanton on Thursday. Walter Dennis's gelding, who beat Unguided Missile by a length and a quarter, is now 6-1 joint-third favourite for the Cheltenham race with Ladbrokes, from 7-1. The same firm have lengthened the prices of Danoli, out to 6-1 from 11-2, and Dublin Flyer (9-1 from 8-1).

"Given his style of racing, connections will surely make certain that the race is a true test of stamina," Ian Wessell, Ladbrokes spokesman, said. "That will further stretch unproven stayers such as One Man, Addington Boy and even Danoli."

Cheltenham Gold Cup (13 March) Ladbrokes 2-1; Imperial Colt 5-1; Dorset Pride 6-1; Danoli (from 11-2); Coome Hill (from 7-1); Dublin Flyer, 10-1; One Man, 12-1; The Very Monty, 14-1; Addington Boy, 15-1; Grief, 16-1; Land Afar, 18-1; Unguided Missile, 20-1; Danoli, 25-1; others.

Each-way a quarter the odds, places 1, 2, 3.

### Racing Post Handicap Chase - Kempton 4.10

Horse (Name/weight) Coral William Hill Ladbrokes Total

Call It A Day (D) Nicholson 10/1 9-4 9-4 5-2

See More Business (D) Nicholson 10/1 10/1 11-4 3-1 9-4

Percy Smollett (D) Nicholson 10/1 9-2 5-1 6-1

King Lucifer (D) Nicholson 10/1 13-2 6-1 11-2 6-1

Buckboard Bounce (S) Richards 10/1 7-1 10-8 10-1 8-1

Encore Un Peu (P) Parker 11/8 7-1 13-2 6-1 5-1

Unruly (M) Twiston-Davies 10/1 11-1 11-1 11-1 11-1

Dorset Prince (S) Parker 10/1 10-1 10-1 10-1 10-1

St. Malo's Falvey (D) Nicholson 10/1 9-1 10-1 10-1 9-1

Ferry Amazon (M) Camacho 10/1 10-1 10-1 10-1 10-1

Each-way a quarter the odds, places 1, 2, 3.

### Racing Post Handicap Chase - Kempton 4.10

Horse (Name/weight) Coral William Hill Ladbrokes Total

Call It A Day (D) Nicholson 10/1 9-4 9-4 5-2

See More Business (D) Nicholson 10/1 10/1 11-4 3-1 9-4

Percy Smollett (D) Nicholson 10/1 9-2 5-1 6-1

King Lucifer (D) Nicholson 10/1 13-2 6-1 11-2 6-1

Buckboard Bounce (S) Richards 10/1 7-1 10-8 10-1 8-1

Encore Un Peu (P) Parker 11/8 7-1 13-2 6-1 5-1

Unruly (M) Twiston-Davies 10/1 11-1 11-1 11-1 11-1

Dorset Prince (S) Parker 10/1 10-1 10-1 10-1 10-1

St. Malo's Falvey (D) Nicholson 10/1 9-1 10-1 10-1 9-1

Ferry Amazon (M) Camacho 10/1 10-1 10-1 10-1 10-1

Each-way a quarter the odds, places 1, 2, 3.

### HAYDOCK

Horse (Name/weight) Coral William Hill Ladbrokes Total

Call It A Day (D) Nicholson 10/1 9-4 9-4 5-2

See More Business (D) Nicholson 10/1 10/1 11-4 3-1 9-4

Percy Smollett (D) Nicholson 10/1 9-2 5-1 6-1

King Lucifer (D) Nicholson 10/1 13-2 6-1 11-2 6-1

Buckboard Bounce (S) Richards 10/1 7-1 10-8 10-1 8-1

Encore Un Peu (P) Parker 11/8 7-1 13-2 6-1 5-1

Unruly (M) Twiston-Davies 10/1 11-1 11-1 11-1 11-1

Dorset Prince (S) Parker 10/1 10-1 10-1 10-1 10-1

St. Malo's Falvey (D) Nicholson 10/1 9-1 10-1 10-1 9-1

Ferry Amazon (M) Camacho 10/1 10-1 10-1 10-1 10-1

Each-way a quarter the odds, places 1, 2, 3.

### HAYDOCK

Horse (Name/weight) Coral William Hill Ladbrokes Total

Call It A Day (D) Nicholson 10/1 9-4 9-4 5-2

See More Business (D) Nicholson 10/1 10/1 11-4 3-1 9-4

Percy Smollett (D) Nicholson 10/1 9-2 5-1 6-1

King Lucifer (D) Nicholson 10/1 13-2 6-1 11-2 6-1

Buckboard Bounce (S) Richards 10/1 7-1 10-8 10-1 8-1

Encore Un Peu (P) Parker 11/8 7-1 13-2 6-1 5-1

Unruly (M) Twiston-Davies 10/1 11-1 11-1 11-1 11-1

Dorset Prince (S) Parker 10/1 10-1 10-1 10-1 10-1

St. Malo's Falvey (D) Nicholson 10/1 9-1 10-1 10-1 9-1

Ferry Amazon (M) Camacho 10/1 10-1 10-1 10-1 10-1

Each-way a quarter the odds, places 1, 2, 3.

### HAYDOCK

Horse (Name/weight) Coral William Hill Ladbrokes Total

Call It A Day (D) Nicholson 10/1 9-4 9-4 5-2

See More Business (D) Nicholson 10/1 10/1 11-4 3-1 9-4

Percy Smollett (D) Nicholson 10/1 9-2 5-1 6-1

King Lucifer (D) Nicholson 10/1 13-2 6-1 11-2 6-1

Buckboard Bounce (S) Richards 10/1 7-1 10-8 10-1 8-1

Encore Un Peu (P) Parker 11/8 7-1 13-2 6-1 5-1

Unruly (M) Twiston-Davies 10/1 11-1 11-1 11-1 11-1

Dorset Prince (S) Parker 10/1 10-1 10-1 10-1 10-1

St. Malo's Falvey (D) Nicholson 10/1 9-1 10-1 10-1 9-1

Ferry Amazon (M) Camacho 10/1 10-1 10-1 10-1 10-1

Each-way a quarter the odds, places 1, 2, 3.

### HAYDOCK

Horse (Name/weight) Coral William Hill Ladbrokes Total

Call It A Day (D) Nicholson 10/1 9-4 9-4 5-2

See More Business (D) Nicholson 10/1 10/1 11-4 3-1 9-4

Percy Smollett (D) Nicholson 10/1 9-2 5-1 6-1

# sport

**FOOTBALL:** Coventry City's venerable keeper, whose career has taken him from the police force to Wembley, intends to remain at the top of his profession past his 40th birthday. **Glenn Moore** spoke to him

## Ogrizovic proud to stand alone

There will be something missing when Steve Ogrizovic leaves the field after Coventry City's match with Everton at Highfield Road today. For the first time in a dozen years, he will not be exchanging a handshake with Neville Southall.

Instead, Paul Gerrard is expected to keep goal for Everton, following the apparent passing of Southall's long reign. Southall is 38, Gerrard 24 – the contrast further emphasises that Ogrizovic now stands alone as the Premiership's most venerable goalkeeper.

One by one the veteran No 1s are departing the Premiership scene. This season Dave Bassett (age 37) has been supplanted by 25-year-old Matt Taylor at Southampton and Tony Cottee (35) has suffered a career-threatening injury at Sunderland. West Ham, and 35-year-old Ludek Milosko, is fighting relegation while Kevin Hitchcock (34) is unsure of his place at Chelsea. By the time Ogrizovic celebrates his 40th birthday in September he could be the Premiership's oldest goalkeeper by seven years.

What is the secret? "One good thing is that I don't have to run around like an idiot," Ogrizovic said

'People say that goalkeepers are mad, but one good thing is that I don't have to run around like an idiot'

when we met up at Coventry's Ryton training complex this week. "People say goalkeepers are mad, but I've always thought it was the other way around. At least the ball comes to us, they have to chase it around."

It is not an entirely frivolous point, but he adds: "Desire is what has kept me going. I'm lucky that I've always been a good trainer. I see some young pros, some kids, who come in and it is almost a chore to go training. I feel sorry for them, they are never going to fulfil their potential. People say I work hard, but it is just the way I prepare for a game. I have another year on the contract after this and want to play as long as possible."

We are sitting in a changing room chock-full of muddy kit and giving off a distinctive odour. However, this is not because Ogrizovic – the name comes from his Yugoslav father – is so obsessed with training he cannot drag himself away from the environment. He is showered and clean but is helpfully enduring the atmosphere so the interview can be conducted in peace (he has done enough of these to know a cantankerous full of footballers is not a good location).

"I've always been fit and my body

is strong, I never want to tempt fate but, apart from a broken leg two years ago, I've also been fortunate with injury," he adds, ignoring the evience of his oft-broken nose.

"It probably helps having worked in the world outside [he is a former policeman]. I know what it is like to work for a living. That said, football is a very difficult occupation, people look at the hours we work and they don't think so, but there is an awful lot of mental pressure, especially when things are not going well."

"You have people's expectations in the city, you are on television every week, there is great pressure to perform well and get good results. Unless you are in that position, people wonder what you are talking about, but if it is a pretty horrible feeling for a few days if things have gone

badly. You have to pick yourself up and sometimes it is not so easy."

If he stays clear of injury, and maintains his current fine form, Ogrizovic's 40th birthday should coincide with his surpassing George Curtis' 486-match club league appearance record. He overtook the former centre-half's club record for appearances in all competitions in December and today turns out in a Coventry shirt for the 554th time.

Two of those matches stand out and memories of both have been rekindled this year. The difficult FA Cup third-round tie with Woking evoked the traumatic 1989 defeat at Sutton United. City's subsequent progress in the most-winnable FA Cup in years has stirred fond recollection of the 1987 FA Cup victory over Tottenham.

Ogrizovic, the only survivor of both games, recalled: "Sutton was the worst moment of my career, not one I like being reminded of. They played very well but we did not play that badly, we created lots of chances. It was one of those days. We were fate. It was a dark hour."

Woking, though a much better side, were also in a no-win situation. It was a tricky game. It was ironic we then went to Blackburn and won while Woking lost at home to Southport. It brings home how difficult football can be.

Ogrizovic, incidentally, is a giant-killer himself. As a keen fast bowler, he was in the Shropshire side who beat Yorkshire in the Nat West Trophy in 1984 – Ogrizovic 10-1-43-1 (Moxon). He also reached the final of the main club cricket competition

with Shrewsbury but missed out on Lord's as the town's football club, his then-employers, were away to Grimsby on final day. "I was there in spirit," he said. "The winning runs were hit with my bat." He still plays, in the powerful Birmingham League.

Back to football's cup. "Every club left must fancy their chances now. If we play to the best of our ability we can beat any of the other sides – which is not to say we think we will win it. With it being 10 years since we won, people in the city are saying it could be our year, but I'm too long in the tooth to start thinking about that yet. I am not looking any further ahead than a very difficult game."

"In 1987 I was already 29 and I was determined to take it all in. I thought 'This might not happen again and, to date, it hasn't. I've said to a few lads: 'This year might be your best opportunity, time does pass you by. Don't think there's next year and the year after. Do it now, this is your chance'."

If they beat Derby on Wednesday, Coventry will face Middlesbrough in the sixth round at home. The ideal semi-final for Ogrizovic would beat Chesterfield, not for the obvious benefit in playing a Second Division club, but because that is where he was put of Europe.

He signed Bruce Grobbelaar.

Meanwhile we got to the European Cup final and beat Real Madrid in Paris. I was on the bench. Then Ray dropped the bombshell that he wanted to leave. If I had known Ray was going, I would never have asked for a move.

"Bob had spent £250,000 on Bruce

so he was obviously going to play him, but he persuaded me to stay another year and fight it out with him. Unfortunately I never got the opportunity. Who knows what would have happened? I always wonder, but it's no good looking back."

Indeed. It is a fact bet the former policeman – at 6ft 5in he was always detailed to patrol Nottingham city center on a Saturday night – would not swap places with Grobbelaar now.

"It's a funny story," he says, as people do when they tell a story which is not funny at all, not for them.

"Ray Clemence was in goal and obviously playing very well. I was never going to get past him and I felt I needed first-team experience. I put that to Bob Paisley and he agreed but said I had to wait until he had signed another keeper and until we were put of Europe.

He signed Bruce Grobbelaar.

Meanwhile we got to the European

Cup final and beat Real Madrid in

Paris. I was on the bench. Then Ray

dropped the bombshell that he wanted

to leave. If I had known Ray was

going, I would never have asked for

a move.

"Bob had spent £250,000 on Bruce

so he was obviously going to play him,

but he persuaded me to stay another

year and fight it out with him. Unfor-

tunately I never got the oppor-

tunity. Who knows what would

have happened? I always wonder, but

it's no good looking back."

Indeed. It is a fact bet the former

policeman – at 6ft 5in he was

always detailed to patrol Nottingham

city center on a Saturday night – would

not swap places with Grobbelaar

now.

"It's a funny story," he says, as

people do when they tell a story

which is not funny at all, not for them.

"Ray Clemence was in goal and

obviously playing very well. I was

never going to get past him and I

needed first-team experience. I put

that to Bob Paisley and he agreed

but said I had to wait until he had

signed another keeper and until we

were put of Europe.

He signed Bruce Grobbelaar.

Meanwhile we got to the European

Cup final and beat Real Madrid in

Paris. I was on the bench. Then Ray

dropped the bombshell that he wanted

to leave. If I had known Ray was

going, I would never have asked for

a move.

"Bob had spent £250,000 on Bruce

so he was obviously going to play him,

but he persuaded me to stay another

year and fight it out with him. Unfor-

tunately I never got the oppor-

tunity. Who knows what would

have happened? I always wonder, but

it's no good looking back."

Indeed. It is a fact bet the former

policeman – at 6ft 5in he was

always detailed to patrol Nottingham

city center on a Saturday night – would

not swap places with Grobbelaar

now.

"It's a funny story," he says, as

people do when they tell a story

which is not funny at all, not for them.

"Ray Clemence was in goal and

obviously playing very well. I was

never going to get past him and I

needed first-team experience. I put

that to Bob Paisley and he agreed

but said I had to wait until he had

signed another keeper and until we

were put of Europe.

He signed Bruce Grobbelaar.

Meanwhile we got to the European

Cup final and beat Real Madrid in

Paris. I was on the bench. Then Ray

dropped the bombshell that he wanted

to leave. If I had known Ray was

going, I would never have asked for

a move.

"Bob had spent £250,000 on Bruce

so he was obviously going to play him,

but he persuaded me to stay another

year and fight it out with him. Unfor-

tunately I never got the oppor-

tunity. Who knows what would

have happened? I always wonder, but

it's no good looking back."

Indeed. It is a fact bet the former

policeman – at 6ft 5in he was

always detailed to patrol Nottingham

city center on a Saturday night – would

not swap places with Grobbelaar

now.

"It's a funny story," he says, as

people do when they tell a story

which is not funny at all, not for them.

"Ray Clemence was in goal and

obviously playing very well. I was

never going to get past him and I

needed first-team experience. I put

that to Bob Paisley and he agreed

but said I had to wait until he had

signed another keeper and until we

were put of Europe.

He signed Bruce Grobbelaar.

Meanwhile we got to the European

Cup final and beat Real Madrid in

Paris. I was on the bench. Then Ray

dropped the bombshell that he wanted

to leave. If I had known Ray was

going, I would never have asked for

a move.

"Bob had spent £250,000 on Bruce

so he was obviously going to play him,

but he persuaded me to stay another

year and fight it out with him. Unfor-

tunately I never got the oppor-

tunity. Who knows what would

have happened? I always wonder, but

it's no good looking back."

Indeed. It is